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House of Representatives

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

PRAYER

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

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

On this day, in the midst of sometimes contentious debate, we ask again that You give all Members peace and patience, with wisdom and courage to do what is best for our Nation.

Perplexing and competing questions and answers challenge us all to remember that our Nation is a people descended from immigrants, most in history, and many in faith. May all Americans, and those Members who represent them here, rise to the challenge of these days and prove to be the best of ourselves.

As always, may all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. DOGGETT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

VIRGINIA'S PAPER AND WOOD PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the paper and wood products industry in Virginia, which employs over 1,500 men and women in my district; and I wish to recognize the achievements of the industry in improving purchased energy efficiencies.

Sustainability is inherent to the pulp, paper, packaging, tissue, and wood products manufacturing industry. These products are made from renewable and recyclable resources, and these companies have a good track record of managing natural resources in order to ensure that they can continue making useful products in the future.

In 2011, the industry established the Better Practices, Better Planet 2020 initiative, pursuing one of the most extensive sets of sustainability goals established for a U.S. manufacturing industry. This week, the American Forest and Paper Association is releasing their 2016 report on the industry's performance.

The industry has improved their purchased energy use per ton of production by 8.1 percent in 2014 compared to the 2005 baseline year, nearing the goal of at least a 10 percent improvement—and some pulp and paper mills are largely energy self-sufficient. In 2014, 15 percent of electricity needed to power manufacturing processes was self-generated, in some cases supplying energy to the electric utility grid.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this industry on taking steps to improve environmental per-

formance, continued economic progress, and support of our communities. I am proud of this industry's progress and their continued commitment to advance sustainability performance and the fact that they provide jobs throughout the United States.

IN MEMORY OF SETH RICH

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. I rise to honor the memory of an extraordinary young man who worked in dedicated service at the Democratic National Committee, Seth Conrad Rich.

Seth was just 27 years old when he was killed this past weekend in our Nation's Capital, the victim of an unknown shooter. He was a dedicated, selfless public servant, protecting one of our most essential freedoms: the right of all Americans to vote. He carried out this work because he believed that together we could make the world a better place. We were fortunate to know and work with him.

Just last Friday, Seth wrote a response on Facebook to the terrible shootings in Dallas. He wrote:

Stop hating each other. . . . We have to be better and more true. . . . Please, stop killing each other.

I hope the Members of this body will join me in offering our deepest thoughts and prayers to the Rich family today, but thoughts and prayers are simply not enough.

In Seth's prescient words: We must stop the hate. We must be better and more true.

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

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



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TAKE STOCK

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

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge what is happening in America. I think it is important that all of us, every single citizen, take stock of what is going on in our country.

There are a lot of people hurting. There are a lot of people upset, high anxiety, a lot of confusion. I think this is a time for us to take stock as citizens and to think about how we can be better listeners to each others' concerns. I think this is a time for us to calm down and think deliberately: How do we open our heart, open our ears, and see if we can understand the perspective that other people share?

I think there is one thing that we must all reflect on the most as citizens. I think about Chief Brown in Dallas and that press conference he gave a week ago, where he said: Most days, we don't feel appreciated. Let's not make this most days.

When a member of our law enforcement wakes up, gets out of bed, has breakfast with their family, kisses their loved ones good-bye, puts that badge on, and walks out the door, they go out there to keep us safe. They go out there to protect the streets. They go out there and risk their lives to preserve our lives.

We throw a lot of big words around in this Chamber: "duty," "honor," "sacrifice." They do it every single day. So I think it is so important that, as Americans, we take stock and we thank the men and women serving in our law enforcement all around this country for what they do for us. I think it is really important that we thank their families for enduring the stress and the hardship that comes with such a job.

As we try to make most days different than most days in the past, and as we try to make sure that we give our law enforcement community the respect and the thankfulness that they deserve, let's make sure that we listen to each other in this country so we can better understand, so that we can make most days in the future better days than we have had in the past.

Our country is hurting, and it needs to start healing. I urge all Americans to do their best to make this country better.

TAKE STOCK ON ALL SIDES

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

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Speaker RYAN for his comments this morning and thank him so much for asking the people of our great country to take stock. I want us to take stock in more ways than one.

I often talk about having been born and raised in a parsonage. One of the

earliest discussions I remember my father having was with a few other ministers trying to decide what to do about getting rid of a minister that had betrayed his trust. So I think that we have to look at these issues on all sides.

I honor police officers. I have relatives who are police officers. I have great friends who are police officers. But the fact of the matter is there are times when people of the cloth need to be defrocked, and there are times when people in the law enforcement community need to take stock.

The fact of the matter is we do know that any time you see a young African American being stopped 52 times by one jurisdiction, something is wrong. And I say to my 21-year-old grandson son: When you are stopped by the police, suppress your manhood so that you can be sure that you come home safe at night.

Let's take stock on all sides of this issue. This is not about being against law enforcement. I support law enforcement, but I do not support those who use the color blue to commit criminal acts.

FACES OF MANUFACTURING RECIPIENT: SAVANNAH GLOBAL SOLUTIONS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Savannah Global Solutions Company in Pembroke, Georgia, for being Georgia Institute of Technology's Faces of Manufacturing award recipient for June of 2016.

This prestigious award presented by Georgia Tech and the Georgia Manufacturing Extension Partnership program honors a company each month that embodies the face of manufacturing in Georgia.

Savannah Global Solutions began as Savannah Forestry Equipment in 1987. After diving head first into the forestry market, the company grew as an example of the American success story. Now, the company operates on an international scale and maintains multiple patents. Furthermore, in 2014, the Small Business Association awarded Savannah Global Solutions with the Exporter of the Year award.

I am honored to have Savannah Global Solutions in the First Congressional District of Georgia and thank them for the work they have done to grow America's economy. I wish them the best of luck in the future.

UNWILLINGNESS TO WORK HARD AT THE HARD WORK THAT MUST BE DONE

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, today Republicans are shutting down this

Congress for the next 53 days. That is true. Most Americans probably won't notice the difference since the Congress has accomplished so little this year.

Last week, Republicans told us this House needed to act on their Homeland Safety and Security Act; but this week, they have abandoned that act because they were so fearful that it would lead to a discussion of gun violence.

It is much like what happened last year when they had a much-ballyhooed border security bill that would do as much for the border, I guess, as Donald Trump. But at the thought that it might lead to a debate about real immigration reform, they shelved it, abandoned it, and have long forgotten it.

When they leave prematurely today, they will have done nothing to accomplish a bipartisan response to the spreading Zika virus, which yesterday led to the birth of the first child with Zika-related birth defects in Texas. Experts say many more are to come. They will have done nothing about the lead contamination of families in Flint, nothing about justice reform, nothing about the budget.

There is an unwillingness to cope with the problems American families face. They have so many needs. There are so many challenges our country faces that we need to work on, but this Congress is totally incapable of doing that work.

WILLIAM "BILL" COORS' 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th birthday of Bill Coors, a resident of Golden, Colorado. He will be celebrating this momentous birthday on August 11, 2016. Bill is the grandson of Adolph Coors, the founder of Coors Brewing Company.

After graduating with a master's degree in chemical engineering from Princeton University in 1939, Bill began in the family business. Over the course of 64 years, he worked his way up in the business ranks, starting as a chemical engineer and eventually earning the title of president of the company. Bill retired from Coors in 2003 at the tender age of 87.

When Bill first started at Coors, the company was a regional operation. Today, Coors beer is a recognized brand throughout the world. This serves as a testament to Bill's determination and hard work.

His management of Coors Brewing Company has had a tremendous impact on the Third Congressional District of Colorado, and it continues to provide jobs in all parts of the production process, from the earliest stages in the barley fields to the delivery trucks that carry Coors products to their final destination.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Coors' life has been full of incredible accomplishments. As a brewery pioneer, a successful manager for his family's company, and a lifelong Coloradoan, Bill is truly an inspiration for all. It is an honor to pay tribute to Bill's life and legacy. I wish him a very happy 100th birthday this year.

□ 0915

DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, Congress is leaving town for 53 days, the longest break that anyone can remember for Congress to leave town. But I guess, you know, there are no important issues confronting the country. Zika virus—no additional funding, spreading north into the U.S., don't have time for that. Background checks for firearms purchases, don't have time for that.

But they do have time for a couple of little things here, you know. Every day, Republicans are for states' rights—except, well, maybe, kind of, today.

The State of Vermont passed a law requiring labeling foods produced with GMOs. A number of the major companies are already doing it. Here are some M&Ms. But they are saying it is impossible, impractical, and the American people don't want to know, and even if they did want to know, we don't want them to know.

So, today, they are going to pass a bill to take care of their corporate friends that will preempt any State from having a meaningful labeling law to inform their citizens, something over 90 percent of Americans would like when it comes to GMOs. And they are going to come up with a meaningless proposal to say, oh, well, you can put a QR code on there, and everybody will pull out their iPhone, and you can give them a lot of information.

Instead, we could just do what Mars has already done here: "partially produced with genetic engineering." But there are a lot of big corporations that don't want to do that.

COAL MINERS' BENEFITS AND PENSIONS

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

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, the healthcare benefits and pensions for 120,000 coal miners and their families are in serious jeopardy due to bankruptcies and challenges in the coal industry. This issue isn't just about a shortfall of funds; it is about people's lives.

A retired coal miner told me his wife has cancer. He was so afraid of losing his healthcare coverage he was nearly in tears. Another retiree told me that he needs his pension to take care of his

handicapped granddaughter. These miners are scared.

Coal miners helped build this country. They have earned these benefits, and they deserve to have the secure retirement they worked so hard for. Legislation I have been working on for over 3 years will help protect the health care and benefits for these retirees and their families. We need to act soon. Time is running out.

Promises were made, promises made by the Federal Government years ago, and those promises need to be kept. Let's get this bill to the floor so these families can have peace of mind and know that we care about them.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intention to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

House Resolution 828. Impeaching John Andrew Koskinen, Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

Resolved, that John Andrew Koskinen, Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, is impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors and that the following articles of impeachment be exhibited to the Senate:

Articles of impeachment exhibited by the House of Representatives of the United States of America in the name of itself and of the people of the United States of America, against John Andrew Koskinen, Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, in maintenance and support of its impeachment against him for high crimes and misdemeanors.

Article 1:

John Andrew Koskinen, in his conduct while Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, engaged in a pattern of conduct that is incompatible with his duties as an officer of the United States, as follows:

Commissioner Koskinen failed in his duty to respond to lawfully issued congressional subpoenas. On August 2, 2013, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives issued a subpoena to the Secretary of the Treasury, Jacob Lew, the custodian of the Internal Revenue Service documents. That subpoena demanded, among other things, "all communications sent or received by Lois Lerner from January 1, 2009, to August 2, 2013."

On February 14, 2014, following the Senate's confirmation of John Andrew Koskinen as Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives reissued the subpoena to him.

On March 4, 2014, Internal Revenue Service employees in Martinsburg,

West Virginia, magnetically erased 422 backup tapes, destroying as many as 24,000 of Lois Lerner's emails responsive to the subpoena. This action impeded congressional investigations into the Internal Revenue Service targeting of Americans based on their political affiliation. The American people may never know the true culpability or extent of the Internal Revenue Service targeting because of the destruction of evidence that took place.

Wherefore, John Andrew Koskinen, by such conduct, warrants impeachment and trial and removal from office.

Article 2:

John Andrew Koskinen engaged in a pattern of deception that demonstrates his unfitness to serve as Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service. Commissioner Koskinen made a series of false and misleading statements to Congress in contravention of his oath to tell the truth. Those false statements included the following:

Number 1, on June 20, 2014, Commissioner Koskinen testified that "since the start of this investigation, every email has been preserved. Nothing has been lost. Nothing has been destroyed."

Number 2, on June 23, 2014, Commissioner Koskinen testified that the Internal Revenue Service had "confirmed that backup tapes from 2011 no longer existed because they have been recycled, pursuant to the Internal Revenue Service's normal policy." He went on to explain that "confirmed means that somebody went back and looked and made sure that, in fact, any backup tapes that had existed had been recycled."

Number 3, on March 26, 2014, Commissioner Koskinen was asked during a hearing before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, "Sir, are you or are you not going to provide this committee all of Lois Lerner's emails?" He answered, "Yes, we will do that."

Each of those statements was materially false.

On March 4, 2014, Internal Revenue Service employees magnetically erased 422 backup tapes containing as many as 24,000 of Lois Lerner's emails.

On February 2, 2014, senior Internal Revenue Service officials discovered that Lois Lerner's computer hard drive had crashed, rendering hundreds or thousands of her emails unrecoverable. Commissioner Koskinen's false statements impeded and confused congressional investigations into the Internal Revenue Service targeting of Americans based on their political affiliation.

Wherefore, John Andrew Koskinen, by such conduct, warrants impeachment and trial and removal from office.

Article 3:

John Andrew Koskinen, throughout his tenure as Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, has acted in a

manner inconsistent with the trust and confidence placed in him as an officer of the United States, as follows:

During his confirmation hearing before the Senate Committee on Finance, John Andrew Koskinen promised, "We will be transparent about any problems we run into; and the public and certainly this committee will know about those problems as soon as we do."

Commissioner Koskinen repeatedly violated that promise. As early as February 2014 and no later than April 2014, he was aware that a substantial portion of Lois Lerner's emails could not be produced to Congress. However, in a March 19, 2014, letter to Senator WYDEN of the Senate Committee on Finance, Commissioner Koskinen said, "We are transmitting today additional information that we believe completes our production to your committee and the House Ways and Means Committee. In light of those productions, I hope that the investigations can be concluded in the very near future."

At the time he sent that letter, he knew that the document production was not complete.

Commissioner Koskinen did not notify Congress of any problem until June 13, 2014, when he included the information on the fifth page of the third enclosure of a letter to the Senate Committee on Finance.

Wherefore, John Andrew Koskinen, by such conduct, warrants impeachment and trial and removal from office.

Article 4:

John Andrew Koskinen has failed to act with competence and forthrightness in overseeing the investigation into Internal Revenue Service targeting of Americans because of their political affiliations as follows:

Commissioner Koskinen stated in a hearing on June 20, 2014, that the Internal Revenue Service had "gone to great lengths" to retrieve all of Lois Lerner's emails. Commissioner Koskinen's actions contradicted the assurances he gave to Congress.

The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration found over 1,000 of Lois Lerner's emails that the Internal Revenue Service had failed to produce. Those discoveries took only 15 days of investigation to uncover. The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration searched a number of available sources, including disaster backup tapes, Lois Lerner's BlackBerry, the email server, backup tapes for the email server, and Lois Lerner's temporary replacement laptop. The Internal Revenue Service failed to examine any of those sources in its own investigation.

Wherefore, John Andrew Koskinen, by such conduct, warrants impeachment, trial, and removal from office.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has imme-

diately precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Louisiana will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

PERMISSION TO POSTPONE PROCEEDINGS ON MOTION TO CONCUR ON S. 764, NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2015

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the question on adoption of the motion to concur on S. 764 be subject to postponement as though under clause 8 of rule XX.

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

There was no objection.

NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2015

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 822, I call up the bill (S. 764) to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment to the House amendment thereto, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the Senate amendment to the House amendment.

Senate amendment to House amendment:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SECTION 1. NATIONAL BIOENGINEERED FOOD DISCLOSURE STANDARD.

The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"Subtitle E—National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard

"SEC. 291. DEFINITIONS.

"In this subtitle:

"(1) BIOENGINEERING.—The term 'bioengineering', and any similar term, as determined by the Secretary, with respect to a food, refers to a food—

"(A) that contains genetic material that has been modified through in vitro recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) techniques; and

"(B) for which the modification could not otherwise be obtained through conventional breeding or found in nature.

"(2) FOOD.—The term 'food' means a food (as defined in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321)) that is intended for human consumption.

"(3) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

"SEC. 292. APPLICABILITY.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—This subtitle shall apply to any claim in a disclosure that a food bears that indicates that the food is a bioengineered food.

"(b) APPLICATION OF DEFINITION.—The definition of the term 'bioengineering' under section 291 shall not affect any other definition, program, rule, or regulation of the Federal Government.

"(c) APPLICATION TO FOODS.—This subtitle shall apply only to a food subject to—

"(1) the labeling requirements under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.); or

"(2) the labeling requirements under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.), or the Egg Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1031 et seq.) only if—

"(A) the most predominant ingredient of the food would independently be subject to the labeling requirements under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.); or

"(B)(i) the most predominant ingredient of the food is broth, stock, water, or a similar solution; and

"(ii) the second-most predominant ingredient of the food would independently be subject to the labeling requirements under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.).

"SEC. 293. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL BIOENGINEERED FOOD DISCLOSURE STANDARD.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF MANDATORY STANDARD.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subtitle, the Secretary shall—

"(1) establish a national mandatory bioengineered food disclosure standard with respect to any bioengineered food and any food that may be bioengineered; and

"(2) establish such requirements and procedures as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the standard.

"(b) REGULATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A food may bear a disclosure that the food is bioengineered only in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary in accordance with this subtitle.

"(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A regulation promulgated by the Secretary in carrying out this subtitle shall—

"(A) prohibit a food derived from an animal to be considered a bioengineered food solely because the animal consumed feed produced from, containing, or consisting of a bioengineered substance;

"(B) determine the amounts of a bioengineered substance that may be present in food, as appropriate, in order for the food to be a bioengineered food;

"(C) establish a process for requesting and granting a determination by the Secretary regarding other factors and conditions under which a food is considered a bioengineered food;

"(D) in accordance with subsection (d), require that the form of a food disclosure under this section be a text, symbol, or electronic or digital link, but excluding Internet website Uniform Resource Locators not embedded in the link, with the disclosure option to be selected by the food manufacturer;

"(E) provide alternative reasonable disclosure options for food contained in small or very small packages;

"(F) in the case of small food manufacturers, provide—

"(i) an implementation date that is not earlier than 1 year after the implementation date for regulations promulgated in accordance with this section; and

"(ii) on-package disclosure options, in addition to those available under subparagraph (D), to be selected by the small food manufacturer, that consist of—

"(I) a telephone number accompanied by appropriate language to indicate that the phone number provides access to additional information; and

"(II) an Internet website maintained by the small food manufacturer in a manner consistent with subsection (d), as appropriate; and

“(G) exclude—

“(i) food served in a restaurant or similar retail food establishment; and

“(ii) very small food manufacturers.

“(3) SAFETY.—For the purpose of regulations promulgated and food disclosures made pursuant to paragraph (2), a bioengineered food that has successfully completed the pre-market Federal regulatory review process shall not be treated as safer than, or not as safe as, a non-bioengineered counterpart of the food solely because the food is bioengineered or produced or developed with the use of bioengineering.

“(c) STUDY OF ELECTRONIC OR DIGITAL LINK DISCLOSURE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subtitle, the Secretary shall conduct a study to identify potential technological challenges that may impact whether consumers would have access to the bioengineering disclosure through electronic or digital disclosure methods.

“(2) PUBLIC COMMENTS.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall solicit and consider comments from the public.

“(3) FACTORS.—The study conducted under paragraph (1) shall consider whether consumer access to the bioengineering disclosure through electronic or digital disclosure methods under this subtitle would be affected by the following factors:

“(A) The availability of wireless Internet or cellular networks.

“(B) The availability of landline telephones in stores.

“(C) Challenges facing small retailers and rural retailers.

“(D) The efforts that retailers and other entities have taken to address potential technology and infrastructure challenges.

“(E) The costs and benefits of installing in retail stores electronic or digital link scanners or other evolving technology that provide bioengineering disclosure information.

“(4) ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURE OPTIONS.—If the Secretary determines in the study conducted under paragraph (1) that consumers, while shopping, would not have sufficient access to the bioengineering disclosure through electronic or digital disclosure methods, the Secretary, after consultation with food retailers and manufacturers, shall provide additional and comparable options to access the bioengineering disclosure.

“(d) DISCLOSURE.—In promulgating regulations under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that—

“(1) on-package language accompanies—

“(A) the electronic or digital link disclosure, indicating that the electronic or digital link will provide access to an Internet website or other landing page by stating only ‘Scan here for more food information’, or equivalent language that only reflects technological changes; or

“(B) any telephone number disclosure, indicating that the telephone number will provide access to additional information by stating only ‘Call for more food information.’;

“(2) the electronic or digital link will provide access to the bioengineering disclosure located, in a consistent and conspicuous manner, on the first product information page that appears for the product on a mobile device, Internet website, or other landing page, which shall exclude marketing and promotional information;

“(3) (A) the electronic or digital link disclosure may not collect, analyze, or sell any personally identifiable information about consumers or the devices of consumers; but

“(B) if information described in subparagraph (A) must be collected to carry out the purposes of this subtitle, that information shall be deleted immediately and not used for any other purpose;

“(4) the electronic or digital link disclosure also includes a telephone number that provides access to the bioengineering disclosure; and

“(5) the electronic or digital link disclosure is of sufficient size to be easily and effectively scanned or read by a digital device.

“(e) STATE FOOD LABELING STANDARDS.—Notwithstanding section 295, no State or political subdivision of a State may directly or indirectly establish under any authority or continue in effect as to any food in interstate commerce any requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether a food is bioengineered or was developed or produced using bioengineering for a food that is the subject of the national bioengineered food disclosure standard under this section that is not identical to the mandatory disclosure requirement under that standard.

“(f) CONSISTENCY WITH CERTAIN LAWS.—The Secretary shall consider establishing consistency between—

“(1) the national bioengineered food disclosure standard established under this section; and

“(2) the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) and any rules or regulations implementing that Act.

“(g) ENFORCEMENT.—

“(1) PROHIBITED ACT.—It shall be a prohibited act for a person to knowingly fail to make a disclosure as required under this section.

“(2) RECORDKEEPING.—Each person subject to the mandatory disclosure requirement under this section shall maintain, and make available to the Secretary, on request, such records as the Secretary determines to be customary or reasonable in the food industry, by regulation, to establish compliance with this section.

“(3) EXAMINATION AND AUDIT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may conduct an examination, audit, or similar activity with respect to any records required under paragraph (2).

“(B) NOTICE AND HEARING.—A person subject to an examination, audit, or similar activity under subparagraph (A) shall be provided notice and opportunity for a hearing on the results of any examination, audit, or similar activity.

“(C) AUDIT RESULTS.—After the notice and opportunity for a hearing under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall make public the summary of any examination, audit, or similar activity under subparagraph (A).

“(4) RECALL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall have no authority to recall any food subject to this subtitle on the basis of whether the food bears a disclosure that the food is bioengineered.

“SEC. 294. SAVINGS PROVISIONS.

“(a) TRADE.—This subtitle shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.

“(b) OTHER AUTHORITIES.—Nothing in this subtitle—

“(1) affects the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services or creates any rights or obligations for any person under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.); or

“(2) affects the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury or creates any rights or obligations for any person under the Federal Alcohol Administration Act (27 U.S.C. 201 et seq.).

“(c) OTHER.—A food may not be considered to be ‘not bioengineered’, ‘non-GMO’, or any other similar claim describing the absence of bioengineering in the food solely because the food is not required to bear a disclosure that the food is bioengineered under this subtitle.

“Subtitle F—Labeling of Certain Food

“SEC. 295. FEDERAL PREEMPTION.

“(a) DEFINITION OF FOOD.—In this subtitle, the term ‘food’ has the meaning given the term in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

“(b) FEDERAL PREEMPTION.—No State or a political subdivision of a State may directly or indirectly establish under any authority or continue in effect as to any food or seed in interstate commerce any requirement relating to the labeling of whether a food (including food served in a restaurant or similar establishment) or seed is genetically engineered (which shall include such other similar terms as determined by

the Secretary of Agriculture) or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed or produced using genetic engineering.

“SEC. 296. EXCLUSION FROM FEDERAL PREEMPTION.

“Nothing in this subtitle, subtitle E, or any regulation, rule, or requirement promulgated in accordance with this subtitle or subtitle E shall be construed to preempt any remedy created by a State or Federal statutory or common law right.”

SEC. 2. ORGANICALLY PRODUCED FOOD.

In the case of a food certified under the national organic program established under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.), the certification shall be considered sufficient to make a claim regarding the absence of bioengineering in the food, such as “not bioengineered”, “non-GMO”, or another similar claim.

MOTION OFFERED BY MR. CONAWAY

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the motion.

The text of the motion is as follows:

Mr. Conaway moves that the House concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the bill, S. 764.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 822, the motion shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Agriculture.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

□ 0930

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONAWAY. 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 material on S. 764.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, for thousands of years, mankind has used biotechnology in its various forms to improve crops and livestock. In fact, these technologies have led to the evolution of nearly every food product we consume and have enabled us to enjoy the safest, highest quality, and most abundant and affordable supply food and fiber in the history of the world.

The majority of the scientific community, including the American Medical Association, the World Health Organization, and the National Academy of Sciences, contends that food products grown with the use of biotechnology are just as safe as, if not safer than, any other food.

Just last month, a group of 107 Nobel laureates joined the effort to fight back against the anti-science, activist group Greenpeace for its attempts to

stifle these lifesaving advances. With almost 800 million malnourished people worldwide and the global population expected to rise to 9 billion by 2050, we are more reliant on biotechnology than ever to meet the ever-increasing demand for a safe and stable food supply.

In recent years, campaigns against agricultural biotechnology have raised concerns among consumers, and some States have begun to implement arbitrary and inconsistent labeling laws that threaten to increase consumer confusion and food costs while ultimately interfering with interstate commerce.

The bill before us today addresses these issues by providing a blueprint for a nationwide uniform standard for labeling products derived from biotechnology. Though I believe the government should only require labels when it is a matter of health or safety, or to provide valuable nutritional information, it is important that this State-by-State patchwork not disrupt the nationwide marketing of food.

With the Vermont mandate kicking in earlier this month, time is now of the essence. I reached out to USDA last week, asking for clarification on the limits of authority that the Senate bill vests with the Secretary. USDA'S response has helped to provide much-needed clarity. I include in the RECORD those letters.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUTRITION,

Washington, DC, July 7, 2016.

Mr. JEFFREY PRIETO,
General Counsel, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRIETO: In the next day or so, the Senate is expected to vote on S. 764, a bill requiring mandatory disclosure of genetically engineered food. The House of Representatives passed its own bill, the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015, last year. However, because of the time constraint imposed by the Vermont law, the House and Senate will be unable to conference the two bills and the House expects to take up the Senate bill in a matter of days. As a result, I am looking to the Department to clarify some remaining areas of ambiguity in the Senate's legislation. Accordingly, I ask that the Department provide answers to the following questions:

1. It is my understanding that the preemption provision is to take effect on the date of enactment of this Act. Absent such clarifying language in this bill, I would like assurances from you that you understand the above to be the intent of Congress and that you would indeed interpret the language to mean as such.

2. After reading the text of the bill, I had serious concerns over what limitations existed as far as what can be required in the actual disclosure. I was directed to look at section 292 regarding applicability. As it was explained to me, that section is meant to limit the application of the disclosure requirement only to the presence of the bioengineered food or ingredient. The language seems somewhat unclear. Can you confirm that the Department would have no authority beyond requiring disclosure of the presence of a bioengineered food or ingredient? Do the same limitations apply to the content of the text or symbol options for disclosure?

3. In response to the study required by Sec. 293(c), the Secretary "shall provide addi-

tional and comparable options to access the bioengineering disclosure." Does this provision direct the Secretary to provide a means of accessing the disclosure (e.g. paying to install land-line phones in supermarkets, purchasing and donating mobile phones for customers to able access QR codes, etc.)? Does this provision limit the Department's authority, simply providing additional disclosure options comparable to those enumerated in Sec. 293(b)(2)(D)?

4. There appears to be overlap between the new authorities and limitations on authorities conferred upon the Secretary and existing authorities. For instance, while this bill specifies that there is no new recall authority, the Department already has recall authority. Is it your understanding that such authorities cannot be used in the context of bioengineered food disclosure unless the use is specifically authorized by this bill?

Finally, the Senate bill provides no funding to implement the mandatory labeling program. I would be remiss if I did not point out that I, along with all parties with whom I have conferred, expect this program to be implemented by the Department using funds not otherwise dedicated to ensuring the safety of our nation's food supply.

Thank you for your willingness to work with me on this matter. Again, given the short timeframe, a prompt response to the above questions would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL,
Washington, DC, July 8, 2016.

Representative MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CONAWAY, Thank you for your letter of July 7, 2016 inquiring as to various technical aspects of the legislative text of the GMO labeling bill currently pending before the U.S. Senate. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), as the lead implementing agency has carefully studied this legislation from legal, program policy, and scientific aspects. I will respond in turn below to the questions raised in your letter.

1. It is my understanding that the preemption provision is to take effect on the date of enactment of this Act. Absent such clarifying language in this bill, I would like assurances from you that you understand the above to be the intent of Congress and that you would indeed interpret the language to mean as such.

The preemption provisions in Sections 293(e) and 295 of the Senate bill are triggered upon the date of enactment.

2. After reading the text of the bill, I had serious concerns over what limitations existed as far as what can be required in the actual disclosure. I was directed to look at section 292 regarding applicability. As it was explained to me, that section is meant to limit the application of the disclosure requirement only to the presence of the bioengineered food or ingredient. The language seems somewhat unclear. Can you confirm that the Department would have no authority beyond requiring disclosure of the presence of a bioengineered food or ingredient? Do the same limitations apply to the content of the text or symbol options for disclosure?

The Section 293 of the Senate bill only authorizes the Secretary to require disclosure pertaining to the presence of bioengineered food.

3. In response to the study required by Sec. 293(c), the Secretary "shall provide additional and comparable options to access the bioengineering disclosure." Does this provi-

sion direct the Secretary to provide a means of accessing the disclosure (e.g. paying to install land-line phones in supermarkets, purchasing and donating mobile phones for customers to be able access QR codes, etc.)? Does this provision limit the Secretary's authority, simply providing additional disclosure options comparable to those enumerated in Sec. 293(b)(2)(D)?

Section 293(c) of the Senate bill calls for a study to be conducted subsequent to enactment to determine if there are technological or other barriers to accessing the electronic disclosure. If the Secretary determines that barriers exist, the bill requires the Secretary to offer other comparable means of disclosing bioengineered foods. The Senate bill does not provide any new authority to provide equipment, funding, or services to assist in accessing the electronic disclosure.

4. There appears to be overlap between the new authorities and limitations on authorities conferred upon the Secretary and existing authorities. For instance, while this bill specifies that there is no recall authority, the Department already has recall authority. Similarly, the Department has other labeling authority apart from what this bill now grants. Is it your understanding that such authorities cannot be used in the context of bioengineered food disclosure unless the use is specifically authorized by this bill?

As an initial matter, the Secretary does not have authority to mandate a recall of meat, poultry or egg products. The Senate bill does not present avenues to utilize recall for the purposes of implementing the disclosure provisions of this bill.

If needed, my team and our USDA programmatic and scientific experts are available to discuss any aspects of the legislation in greater detail at your request. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

(For Jeffrey M. Prieto, General Counsel.)

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, advances in biotechnology are key to the future of agriculture and to ensuring the world has an adequate and stable supply of food. Those advances can only be maintained if we preserve interstate commerce while turning the page on a debate that has unnecessarily maligned this lifesaving technology.

I stand in support of this bill and encourage my colleagues to vote "yes."

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the bill we are considering today, S. 764, recognizes consumers' demand to know more about their food by directing USDA to create a national, mandatory genetically engineered food labeling program.

My colleagues may remember that almost a year ago, this Chamber passed legislation to establish a voluntary labeling program. I still believe a voluntary label is best, but, frankly, if we are going to address this issue—and, as the chairman said, we are out of time—we need to work with the Senate. This is the compromise that was reached and, in my opinion, is probably the only alternative that is available at this point.

Science tells us that foods and ingredients from genetically engineered crops are safe to eat. This technology

allows farmers to protect natural resources and provide an abundant food supply.

Unfortunately, there is a lot of public confusion about these issues, but labeling products is really more about marketing than any safety concerns that people have. This legislation is needed to avoid a situation where 50 States set up 50 different labels, which would only create confusion for consumers, farmers, and food companies.

News reports indicate that Vermont's labeling law, which went into effect July 1, has already led to the loss of some 3,000 products from store shelves. This legislation would rectify this problem while addressing the law's shortcoming.

For example, the Vermont law exempts processed food products containing meat from labeling. So cheese pizza would be labeled, but pepperoni pizza would not. That doesn't make any sense. S. 764 closes this loophole, requiring an additional 25,000 food products to meet new labeling requirements.

I am also pleased that USDA will be responsible for implementing and enforcing this program. They have the expertise to do this. They have shown this with the labeling that they did for the successful National Organic Program.

I would also like to note that S. 764 received strong bipartisan support in the Senate and more than 1,000 farm and food organizations, including the American Farm Bureau Federation, Grocery Manufacturers Association, and Organic Trade Association, and others are calling for passage.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I believe this is a good compromise. It is another example of what the Agriculture Committee has consistently done so well. No one gets everything they want, but at the end of the day, I believe this is a bill that will provide the transparency consumers crave while at the same time allow continued innovation in food production.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his hard work in getting us to where we are today.

I want to give a special thanks to MIKE POMPEO, who helped craft this legislation that, over a year ago in the House, 275 Republicans and Democrats voted on a bill to establish a voluntary nationwide program that would give consumers access to the information that they have requested about the food that they are actually consuming. This bill would have protected advancements in food production and innovation and ended the patchwork of State laws threatening our interstate commerce.

I was extremely disappointed to see that a small group of Members from

the other body blocked this common-sense, bipartisan legislation to protect vital agricultural technology that has been proven time and time again by science to be safe.

I want to ensure that Americans have access to affordable food—and this bill would have done that—and to help address our world's hunger needs that biotechnology can only do in the future.

Unfortunately, this process has stalled for months. Congress was not able to act before Vermont's law went into effect on July 1. Just having one State alter the law—their law—would provide a drastic, drastic negative impact on producers in my district.

Despite what you may hear today, Mr. Speaker, this is not, and never will be, a movement for people to know more about what is in their food. This is a movement by people who want you to pay more for food using practices that are elite, not readily available, and expensive to the hard-working families in this country. These activists have publicly acknowledged their objective is to stigmatize a safe and valuable tool for America's farmers and ranchers.

If leaders of this movement in Vermont were so pure in their motives, they would not have exempted processed dairy foods, which excludes GMO labeling of a little ice cream company that operates in Vermont. I say, if ice cream from Illinois ought to have a label in Vermont, the environmentally conscious ice cream company from Vermont ought to follow the same rule.

While I still believe the voluntary approach is the correct course of action, I am supporting this legislation. The clock has run out. My producers need certainty. An interstate commerce nightmare will shortly pursue if we don't pass this bill.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE).

Ms. PINGREE. I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is a complicated solution to a simple problem. Consumers do have the right to know what is in their food, but the problem is that, right now, when you pick up a box of cereal or a bag of rice in the grocery store, you don't know if you are buying something with GMO ingredients in it. The solution is simple: list GMO ingredients on the back of the package in the ingredient list in plain English.

It is a solution that 64 other countries around the world have already adopted. Most of Europe, Japan, Russia, even China, all require a simple, on-package label that anyone can read. But this bill fails to take that obvious, simple step toward transparency. Instead, it calls for a QR code on the label, which would require a smartphone and a special app and a good cell signal to translate. A complicated solution to a simple problem.

To be clear, knowing what is in the package does not determine the safety

or health of GMO ingredients. It is about the consumers' right to know so they can make that decision for themselves.

I am voting against this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE).

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support for S. 764, the Senate-passed biotechnology labeling legislation that we are considering today.

Without enactment of this legislation today, right now, we will continue to see the emergence of an incompatible patchwork of State laws, like the one that took effect in Vermont just 2 weeks ago.

As a farmer myself, I can tell you with some authority that if these State laws, with their conflicting definitions and labeling requirements, are allowed to take effect, it will increase the cost of production and compliance for farmers as well as food producers.

This, in turn, will drive up grocery bills for American families by hundreds, even thousands of dollars. Mr. Speaker, I believe that is an unacceptable and unconscionable outcome to inflict on the American people.

To be clear, I don't think this bill is perfect. It is far from it. It is filled with ambiguous statements and, in many places, offers little guidance to USDA on how to best implement the bill's provisions.

I am also disappointed the Senate waited until the very last moment, imposing this crisis on the House, leaving us with only two options: either act on this imperfect bill or let the American people suffer.

Mr. Speaker, let the record reflect that the House did its job. It passed a biotech labeling bill for the Senate's consideration an entire year ago.

Generally, when we are talking about food labeling, it is for health and safety purposes. I believe people have a right to know what it is they are eating. But today we find ourselves in a place to require mandatory labeling for agriculture products that are 100 percent safe.

With my reservations noted, passing this bill is the right thing to do. It will establish a meaningful national standard for biotech labeling that will prevent an unworkable patchwork of conflicting State laws. It will provide consumers with information they want. And, finally, it will create an environment where farmers and researchers can continue to do their work and develop new food varieties that are healthier, more abundant, and more pest- and disease-resistant, and allow us to continue to feed our Nation and the world.

I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the esteemed

ranking member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would agree with one of the earlier speakers. It would be confusing for consumers to have 50 different State standards. There is a simple solution, but it is not what is before us today: a simple, forthright disclosure in plain English.

For instance, this was obtained out of a House vending machine just today. It was distributed by Mars. We are all familiar with M&Ms. Partially produced with genetic engineering.

Wow, that wasn't too hard, was it?

I think that is what we should be doing here today, instead of saying: Oh, we are going to maybe have one of three ways of doing it, and one of them will be a QR code.

Well, this doesn't have any QR codes on it, so I won't get my QR reader out. So the average American will be in the grocery store pulling out their iPhone and they are going to have hope there is a good signal in there and they are going to read that. That is ridiculous.

Sixty-four countries require this. The last time we debated this, I brought in a Hershey's bar wrapper. It had a little nice American flag on it. Made in America. Contains GMOs. That is the version they sell in 64 other countries, but they can't do it here. They say you can't do it here. It is too expensive. We will have to change the labels.

Well, M&M's just changed the labels. And now, with what you are doing today, they will probably change it back and take off the words that say "partially produced with genetic engineering," because they won't have to do that anymore.

□ 0945

This is not about passing judgment on the safety or the science behind genetic engineering. It is to say that 90 percent of the American people want to know what is in their food. They want to know it has Blue 1, Lake Yellow 6, Red 40, corn syrup, dextrin, corn starch, peanuts, milk, soy, oh, and partially produced with genetic engineering. That is not too hard. That is what the American people want. But you are going to deny them that.

On any other day, I would hear my Republican colleagues say we're for states' rights. Well, now we are just about to preempt the States because, if the States do it, it will become confusing.

Well, how about we just have a national standard, plain and simple, plain English, so that American consumers will know. It is not too hard, and it is very sad that we have come to this point.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. POMPEO), who has been involved with this process for a long time.

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the farmers and constituents in my district and across the country, I rise in support of S. 764 today.

Over, now, what amounts to almost 3 years, Representatives and Senators from both parties have been diligently working on a solution to prevent a disastrous, statewide patchwork of food labeling laws from taking shape and causing chaos throughout our Nation's food supply chain.

As the proud sponsor of H.R. 1599, the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act, which passed the House almost 1 year ago by a large bipartisan majority, I want to thank Senator ROBERTS and our friends in the Senate for building on our legislation and arriving at a solution to resolve this matter.

It is not perfect; it is not exactly the bill that we passed over; but without this legislation, inconsistent State-level food labeling laws will lead to market disruptions and supply chain complications which are simply intolerable for our ranchers and our farmers and those attempting to feed the world. It would not only harm agriculture communities, but it would have resulted in higher prices at the grocery store for hardworking Kansans and people all across our country.

I am extremely proud of the coalition that we have all built. Our committee, the Energy and Commerce Committee, the Agriculture Committee have worked hard to get to this day. From Coffeyville to Colby, Kansans need a workable solution, and this legislation will do that trick.

We couldn't have gotten here without the massive support I have received from all across Kansas, people like Rich Felts, the president of the Kansas Farm Bureau, and Stacey Forshee, who came and helped me at the most difficult times in making this legislation work. She is a mother and a farmer from Cloud County, Kansas. Mick Rausch, a good friend and farmer in Sedgwick County and head of the Sedgwick County Farm Bureau. Max Tjaden and his wife, Anne, worked diligently to help make this legislation come into being. Kent Winter, Leslie Kauffman, Tom Tunnel, Philip Bradley, Matt Perrier, from the Kansas Livestock Association, Dennis Hupe, and Raylen Phelon, all were part of making this day occur.

It will be better for Kansans; it will be better for Americans; and America will now have the capacity to use biotechnology to continue to feed that next billion people and solve the incredible hunger risk that faces our globe.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. SCHRADER).

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, S. 764, well, we can demonize the work of Congress on a regular basis and, unfortunately, sometimes we are our own worst enemies. I, on the other hand,

feel that S. 764 is an example of Congress getting it right. This is a big country, a lot of diverse opinions about what we should and shouldn't be doing.

I am a farmer and I am a veterinarian, a man of science. I am concerned, very concerned, much like my good colleague and friend from Washington State on the other side of the aisle, that there is a campaign of misinformation and disinformation about the health and safety of American food. I will stack American farmers and producers up against anyone in the world for producing the healthiest and safest food for American consumers.

This is a hard-fought compromise—hard-fought, very hard-fought. I was on the Ag Committee when we started this discussion. A lot of people want to know what is in their food, they say. Well, that is why we have ingredient labeling so, as my good colleague and friend from Oregon talked about, you can read what is on the label that might be important to you in terms of allergies, safety information, things that might actually affect your health and welfare.

Genetic engineering has been around for centuries. As a man of science, I will tell you, it is a lot safer to do it in a laboratory than out in the field where you have mutations that you can't control that might actually be detrimental to your health and safety. In the laboratory, you can control a great deal of that.

And lost in this discussion is what genetic engineering biotechnology has done for the people of this world. I remember not too many years ago—I am a little older—where we were worried about feeding the world's population. Back in 1965, 1966, there was concern: Do we have enough arable land? Is the food going to be nutritious?

A lot of people in other countries without conducive climates can't raise their own food. In this country, we can, and, through science and engineering, we have created more nutritious crops, crops that can grow in bad environments. We can now do no-till because we have agents that will control weeds and pests.

If you are concerned about climate change, you ought to be strongly in favor of this bill—strongly in favor of this bill. This is less use of some of the very agents that some of my friends on my side of the aisle are concerned about.

Having said that, I am from Oregon. We are a transparency State. We want to know as much as we can about everything—our election processes, our environment, and, apparently, our food.

The Senate has come up with a compromise. I liked our House bill, but they have come up with a compromise. We now have labeling for GMO. We actually have a definition in this bill of what GMO is so the consumer is protected. Again, it is not a patchwork of regulations around the country. Now we have a standard that the consumer can take to the bank and understand.

The idea that people don't have cell phones is ludicrous. I have had people in pretty tough situations in my district, don't have a whole heck of a lot, but they have got a cell phone. They know how to use it, get the apps and make sure they can understand what is in their food.

I think this should be an hour we celebrate. The other side has to, finally, I hope, accept victory. We have a mandatory labeling for GMO. This is a great compromise.

Democrats, Republicans, Senate, and House, let's accept and vote for S. 764 for the American consumer and the American farmer.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate the previous speaker's comments.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this bill is a prime example of why the American people are so frustrated with Congress. This is a deeply, deeply flawed bill.

We are told that this is a mandatory GMO labeling bill, but the truth is not really. This bill is a deception. When people think of labels, they expect something that is easily identifiable, that is clear, like a written label. That is not a controversial idea.

This calls for a so-called Quick Response Code, whatever that may be, that is confusing and can only be accessed by using a smartphone with Internet access—never mind that many Americans don't have smartphones and many supermarkets don't even get service, thereby making it impossible to get information on GMOs and keeping consumers in the dark about what is in their food.

But let's be honest. This is exactly what some in Big Industry want. They want people to be confused. They don't want people to have access to information. And when Big Industry speaks, Congress not only listens, Congress rolls over and gives Big Industry whatever it wants.

And let's be clear about another thing. This debate is not about the science regarding GMOs. It is not about whether you love GMOs or hate GMOs. I consume GMOs. My kids consume GMOs. But I still believe that every consumer is entitled to know whether the food they buy contains GMOs. That is what this debate is about. It is about transparency.

And for those who think that this ends the debate, that this is it, I have a prediction: You are wrong. People are going to fight to demand for clear, mandatory GMO labeling. They have a right to know what is in their food. The overwhelming majority of the American people, Democrats and Republicans, all favor clear, mandatory GMO labeling.

I have got a radical idea. Why don't we give them what they want? Why don't we just put it on the package? It

doesn't cost any more. This idea that this is an effort that will raise food prices is ridiculous.

This convoluted, complicated labeling system outlined in this bill, if that is not going to raise food prices, then a simple, in plain English listing on food that says "this contains GMOs" will certainly not raise food prices.

Mr. Speaker, sooner or later we are going to get clear, mandatory GMO labeling. I prefer sooner; and, therefore, I urge my colleagues to reject this bill, and let's give the American consumer what they want.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

I would point out to the gentleman, Mr. Speaker, that there are other options besides the QR code with respect to complying and getting the information for those few consumers that really, really want to know this information; they can get it.

This bill requires that the Secretary, within 1 year—actually, the rule is already written—within 1 year to conduct a study to make sure that consumers are really, in fact, getting the information they want in the ways that they want to get it, and then the Secretary will have ways of proposing additional comparable options for this issue.

The gentleman is misleading in the sense that there are other options to make this happen; and if it is not working, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture will be able to complete that study.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD).

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, people shouldn't have to jump through hoops to know what is in their food. That is really what this issue is all about.

When we go the grocery store, the very first thing that you do is you pick up whatever it is you are looking at and you read the label to see if it contains products or ingredients or things that you want to eat or that you want to feed your family.

Nearly 90 percent of Americans have called for this clear, simple, direct labeling of foods that have been either genetically engineered or modified. They support this very simple concept that we have a right to know what is in the food we eat; yet the GMO bill that we are voting on today is very misleading.

Proponents will say that this is a labeling bill, but it is not really about the right to know. It actually creates an illusion of transparency, while making things more difficult for consumers, not easier.

This is, as we have heard earlier, exactly what people hate about Washington, that we pretend to solve a problem when, actually, we are just making things harder and more confusing for the American people.

If this bill is really, truly intended to expand consumers' right to know, why

not require a simple, uniform food labeling standard that is clear, straightforward, and easy to read?

Instead of doing that, this bill creates a system of electronic codes, symbols, and text that are intentionally confusing to consumers, making them work harder to try to get access to information that should be readily available to them. Additionally, this bill lacks any enforcement measure to hold companies accountable if they don't comply with labeling requirements.

This bill has raised concerns from the FDA over the bill's narrow definition of genetic engineering that leaves common foods without any labeling requirement at all.

So let's stop pretending that S. 764 does anything but create confusion, making it harder for the American people to know what is in their food. This is exactly the opposite of what they are calling for.

Sixty-four countries around the world have already required labeling of genetically modified foods, like the EU, Australia, Japan, and many others, and this is what we are calling for today. For here, in the United States, we must have one uniform national labeling standard that is simple, clear, and makes it easier for consumers to make their own informed decisions about the food that they are eating.

I have cosponsored H.R. 913, introduced by my colleague, PETE DEFAZIO, which would do just that. The bill passed by the Senate and the bill before us today is a bad bill that does not serve the best interests of the American people. That is why I strongly oppose this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

□ 1000

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, a little background on this bill.

This started in Vermont, where there was a strong citizen movement to have the right to know what was in their food. It was not a battle about the science of GMOs or about whether it was healthy or not. It was really based on the proposition that for a consumer who wishes to know what is in their food, whether it is the number of calories or whether it is GMO-produced, they had a right to know. It is as simple as that.

The irony here is that the pushback has been from folks who are advocating the benefits of GMOs. If they are so great—and I am not disputing what some of their benefits may be—why not brag about it by putting it on the label? Why hide it? It really doesn't make a lot of sense.

In Vermont, we had a bipartisan vote in the Senate 28-2 and a strong, bipartisan vote in the House that was based upon the right of Vermonters who wanted to know whether there were GMOs to have that knowledge.

There was a lot of pushback initially by industry, but some of the industry has kind of got it right: if the consumer wants to know, let them know. Kellogg's and Campbell Soup both now have labeling on their products and let the consumers know. What is really the big deal?

Now we have a bill from the Senate that, frankly, when you look at it, it is kind of dumb, because what it does is give options on how you "label." You can use English, where right on the label you can read "GMOs" or not. That makes sense.

But then there is another mechanism where there is, like, a barcode. You have to go to the store with your iPhone, scan the barcode—by the way, when you are grocery shopping, you are trying to get home, get dinner on, you have kids that are trying to go to a school practice. And you are supposed to stop and scan the barcode and go to a Web site to see whether that can of black bean soup has GMOs or not?

The other option you can have is you can, in the middle of the store, dial a 1-800 number, get a call center, probably overseas, and talk to somebody and ask them whether this can of soup that you are holding 5,000 miles away from the person you are talking to contains GMOs or not.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. WELCH. So we have this situation where, in the Senate bill that we are now considering, there is an acknowledgment that there should be a label, but it contains a label that is impossible to read.

So if there is an acknowledgment about the right of a consumer to have access to the information, why not give them the information in plain and simple English? We don't have to do dumb end-arounds in order to give consumers the information they are seeking.

That is the essence of the opposition to this bill. Make it simple, keep it simple, and let people know what it is they are buying so they can make the decision.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, my good friend just spoke—and he is my friend, not the common "my good friend" nonsense we typically say around here, but the gentleman from Vermont is my friend. And his argument would be a bit more forceful if, in fact, the wisdom of the Vermont legislature that he touted hadn't exempted all those State-produced products, like Ben and Jerry's ice cream, from the important label that folks who eat ice cream, apparently, in Vermont don't need to know.

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

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, is the gentleman from Texas ready to close?

Mr. CONAWAY. Yes. I have no further speakers.

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

Again, this isn't a perfect bill. I think the chairman and I would prefer the House bill, but this is a bill that was able to pass the Senate. It will get us past this crisis situation that was developed because of the Vermont law going into effect.

It is something that we think is workable and gives the USDA the authority to not only develop this system but also, for the first time, actually determine what this means. Because that is one of the big issues, that as you talk to 10 different people about what a GMO is, you get 10 different answers. So what is going to happen here is we are going to have a situation where we will define what this means. That is a big step forward.

I encourage my colleagues to support the bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, before I yield back, I want to thank everybody involved in this debate, particularly my team and the hard work they did.

The bill that we passed a year ago with much labor and much work wound up not being the answer that we all wanted. I think we got 275 of our colleagues to vote for it a year ago.

There have been a lot of efforts in this regard. I want to thank our team for doing that. I want to thank the ranking member and his team for the hard work they have been doing.

I appreciate the civility of the debate this morning and look forward to passage of the bill shortly.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in favor of S. 764 when it comes to the floor later on.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, today this body voted on S.764, compromise legislation that provides a bipartisan solution to the state and local laws mandating different requirements for the labeling of genetically engineered (GE) ingredients in foods. While I was not present to vote on this legislation, had I been, I would have voted in favor of the bill.

It is a reality that many of our crops are genetically modified and it is important that food companies disclose ingredient information. S. 764 is a compromise and provides a common sense federal solution to a patchwork system that has the potential to disrupt the food supply chain by having certain labeling requirements in some states but not others, with the increased compliance costs ultimately being passed along to the consumer. The bill institutes a national mandatory labeling standard for foods that contain genetically engineered crops, with several options for how food manufacturers can label their products.

Mr. Speaker, it is for this reason that I support the disclosure of ingredient information and would have voted in support of this bill. I will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that no consumer is left in the dark regarding the ingredients of their food.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I will vote in opposition to S. 764, on labeling requirements for genetically-engineered foods. While I recognize this

legislation, with a mandatory labeling requirement, is a step forward from the DARK Act that passed the House last year, it falls far short of the comprehensive labeling standard consumers need.

More than ever, Americans want to know what goes into the food they eat, and have concerns about the presence of genetically-modified ingredients. Rather than clear, sensible labels for these ingredients, this bill would allow manufacturers to use QR codes and other technologies to satisfy label requirements. These measures would shift a heavy burden to consumers to scan the code with a smartphone or other device and read about the food contents on a website rather than the package they hold in their hands. We need understandable, accessible labels that allow Americans to pick up a food product and easily understand its contents.

That is why I join with leading consumer groups like Consumers Union, Center for Food Safety, as well as prominent environmental organizations like the Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, and League of Conservation Voters to oppose this measure.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I will vote against S. 764, a bill that would preempt state genetically modified organism (GMO) labeling laws and replace them with a wholly inadequate federal standard.

People should be able to know what they are eating. The bill before us today would exempt many genetically engineered (GE) foods from any labeling altogether and would preempt pro-consumer state laws, including the engineered food labeling laws in Vermont, Connecticut, and Maine. I actively supported an effort to pass a GMO labeling law in my home state of Oregon, and I continue to support strong state efforts to stand up for transparency in the face of federal inadequacy or inaction.

The bill also includes several vague standards, and its labeling requirements would allow corporations to decide how to give consumers access to GE information, including through the use of a smartphone or the internet. Making access to GE labeling information electronic and/or dependent on a smartphone is not transparent, accessible, or available to many Americans.

S. 764 has been sold as a "compromise" because it would require some labeling, but these provisions are clearly just a fig leaf. We need plain language, mandatory, on-package labeling, and until federal law protects our right to know what we are eating, the federal government should not preempt state efforts to protect and inform their citizens.

I continue to strongly support federal-level mandatory labeling for foods that contain GMOs, and I'm an original cosponsor of Rep. DEFAZIO's Genetically Engineered Food Right-to-Know Act (H.R. 913). I'll continue pushing for stronger consumer protections when it comes to food safety and will oppose any attempts to undermine these efforts.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, while I am fully supportive of a national standard to label genetically modified (GMO) foods, I am unable to support S. 764, the GMO Food Labeling Requirements bill.

Although this bill takes an important step toward federal preemption, it does so at the expense of consumer transparency and safety.

For example, S. 764 falls short of providing a robust definition of "bioengineering", which will exempt the majority of GMO foods from

being properly labeled. Additionally, this bill will hurt the most vulnerable among us. The provision to include “digital labeling” will withhold valuable information about GMO foods from rural, low-income and elderly Americans who are less likely to own a smart phone or have access to the internet.

That’s over 50 percent of rural and 65 percent of elderly people who will not be able to access the consumer information they need.

Mr. Speaker, American consumers deserve the best information available when it comes to food choices that they make for themselves and their families.

We must continue to address this vital issue because all consumers deserve the right to know what is in their food and how it’s grown.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 822, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the motion by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY).

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

Mr. WELCH. 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 and the order of the House of today, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1555. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 2893. An act to reauthorize the sound recording and film preservation programs of the Library of Congress, and for other purposes.

S. 3207. An act to authorize the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to provide playback equipment in all formats.

□ 1015

IRAN ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2016

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 819, I call up the bill (H.R. 5631) to hold Iran accountable for its state sponsorship of terrorism and other threatening activities and for its human rights abuses, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 819, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5631

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 “Iran Accountability Act of 2016”.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Sense of Congress.
- Sec. 4. Statement of policy.
- Sec. 5. Definitions.

TITLE I—SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO ENTITIES OWNED BY IRAN’S REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS

- Sec. 101. Imposition of sanctions with respect to the IRGC.
- Sec. 102. Additional sanctions with respect to foreign persons that support or conduct certain transactions with Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps or other sanctioned persons.
- Sec. 103. IRGC watch list and report.
- Sec. 104. Imposition of sanctions against Mahan Air.
- Sec. 105. Modification and extension of reporting requirements on the use of certain Iranian seaports by foreign vessels and use of foreign airports by sanctioned Iranian air carriers.

TITLE II—IRAN BALLISTIC MISSILE SANCTIONS

- Sec. 201. Expansion of sanctions with respect to efforts by Iran to acquire ballistic missile and related technology.
- Sec. 202. Expansion of sanctions under Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 with respect to persons that acquire or develop ballistic missiles.
- Sec. 203. Imposition of sanctions with respect to ballistic missile program of Iran.
- Sec. 204. Expansion of mandatory sanctions with respect to financial institutions that engage in certain transactions relating to ballistic missile capabilities of Iran.
- Sec. 205. Disclosure to the Securities and Exchange Commission of activities with certain sectors of Iran that support the ballistic missile program of Iran.
- Sec. 206. Regulations.

TITLE III—SANCTIONS RELATING TO IRAN’S SUPPORT OF TERRORISM

- Sec. 301. Special measures with respect to Iran relating to its designation as a jurisdiction of primary money laundering concern.

TITLE IV—SANCTIONS RELATING TO HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN IRAN

- Sec. 401. Expansion of list of persons involved in human rights abuses in Iran.
- Sec. 402. Identification of, and imposition of, sanctions with respect to, certain Iranian individuals.
- Sec. 403. Imposition of sanctions with respect to persons who conduct transactions with or on behalf of certain Iranian individuals.
- Sec. 404. Mandatory sanctions with respect to financial institutions that engage in certain transactions on behalf of persons involved in human rights abuses or that export sensitive technology to Iran.
- Sec. 405. United States support for the people of Iran.
- Sec. 406. United States Special Coordinator on Human Rights and Democracy in Iran.

Sec. 407. Broadcasting to Iran.

Sec. 408. Report on United States citizens detained by Iran.

Sec. 409. Sense of Congress on role of the United Nations in promoting human rights in Iran.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On April 2, 2015, in announcing a framework agreement for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, President Obama stated that “other American sanctions on Iran for its support of terrorism, its human rights abuses, its ballistic missile program, will continue to be fully enforced”.

(2) On July 14, 2015, President Obama stated that “we will maintain our own sanctions related to Iran’s support for terrorism, its ballistic missile program, and its human rights violations”.

(3) On January 16, 2016, President Obama stated that “We still have sanctions on Iran for its violations of human rights, for its support of terrorism, and for its ballistic missile program. And we will continue to enforce these sanctions, vigorously.”

(4) On January 21, 2016, Secretary of State John Kerry admitted that sanctions relief under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action would go to terrorist organizations, stating: “I think that some of it will end up in the hands of the IRGC or other entities, some of which are labeled terrorists . . . You know, to some degree, I’m not going to sit here and tell you that every component of that can be prevented.”

(5) Secretary of State John Kerry stated on July 23, 2015, “We will not violate the [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)] if we use our authorities to impose sanctions on Iran for terrorism, human rights, missiles, or other nonnuclear reasons. And the JCPOA does not provide Iran any relief from United States sanctions under any of those authorities or other authorities.”

(6) Director of National Intelligence James Clapper wrote on February 9, 2016, “[T]he Islamic Republic of Iran presents an enduring threat to U.S. national interests because of its support to regional terrorist and militant groups and the Assad regime, as well as its development of advanced military capabilities. Tehran views itself as leading the ‘axis of resistance’ which includes the Assad regime and sub-national groups aligned with Iran, especially Lebanese Hezbollah and Iraqi Shia militants . . . Tehran might even use American citizens detained when entering Iranian territories as bargaining pieces to achieve financial or political concessions in line with their strategic intentions.”

(7) Secretary of the Treasury Jacob Lew stated on July 14, 2015, “We harbor no illusions about the Iranian government’s nefarious activities beyond its nuclear program. Make no mistake: we will continue to impose and aggressively enforce sanctions to combat Iran’s support for terrorist groups, its fomenting of violence in the region, and its perpetration of human rights abuses.”

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Iran’s ballistic missile program and support for terrorism represents a serious threat to allies of the United States in the Middle East and Europe, members of the Armed Forces deployed in those regions, and ultimately the United States; and

(2) the United States should impose tough primary and secondary sanctions against any person that directly or indirectly supports the ballistic missile program of Iran, its state sponsorship of terrorism and human rights abuses, as well as against any foreign person or financial institution that engages in transactions or trade that support those efforts.

SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to continue to impose pressure on the Government of Iran for its role as the foremost state sponsor of terrorism, its ongoing human rights abuses against the citizens of Iran and other peoples, and its unjust detention of United States citizens; and

(2) to continue to use sanctions as an element of that pressure and to discourage financial institutions and entities from engaging in business and commerce with Iranian entities tied to Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps and to Iranian officials involved in human rights abuses.

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ENTITY.**—The term “entity” means any corporation, business association, partnership, trust, society, or any other entity.

(2) **FOREIGN PERSON.**—The term “foreign person” means an individual or entity that is not a United States person.

(3) **IRGC.**—The term “IRGC” means—

(A) Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps and any official, agent, or affiliate of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps; or

(B) any person owned or controlled by Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps.

(4) **OWN OR CONTROL.**—The term “own or control” means, with respect to an entity—

(A) to hold more than 25 percent of the equity interest by vote or value in the entity;

(B) to hold any seats on the board of directors of the entity; or

(C) to otherwise control the actions, policies, or personnel decisions of the entity.

(5) **PERSON.**—The term “person” means an individual or entity.

(6) **UNITED STATES PERSON.**—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

TITLE I—SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO ENTITIES OWNED BY IRAN'S REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS**SEC. 101. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE IRGC.**

(a) **AMENDMENTS.**—Subtitle A of title III of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8741 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 304 as section 306; and

(2) by inserting after section 303 the following new sections:

“SEC. 304. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO IRAN'S REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS, ANY OFFICIAL, AGENT, OR AFFILIATE OF IRAN'S REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS, AND ANY PERSON OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY IRAN'S REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, and as appropriate thereafter, the President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, any official, agent, or affiliate of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, and any person owned or controlled by Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps.

“(b) **SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.**—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

“(1) Sanctions applicable with respect to an organization that is designated by the Secretary of State as a foreign terrorist organization pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).

“(2) Sanctions applicable with respect to a foreign person pursuant to Executive Order 13224 (September 23, 2001; relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism).

“SEC. 305. DEFINITIONS.

“In this title:

“(1) **ENTITY.**—The term ‘entity’ means any corporation, business association, partnership, trust, society, or any other entity.

“(2) **FOREIGN PERSON.**—The term ‘foreign person’ means a person that is not a United States person.

“(3) **PERSON.**—The term ‘person’ means an individual or entity.

“(4) **UNITED STATES PERSON.**—The term ‘United States person’ means—

“(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

“(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

“(5) **OWN OR CONTROL.**—The term ‘own or control’ means, with respect to an entity—

“(A) to hold more than 25 percent of the equity interest by vote or value in the entity;

“(B) to hold any seats on the board of directors of the entity; or

“(C) to otherwise control the actions, policies, or personnel decisions of the entity.”

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents for the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 is amended by striking the item relating to section 304 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 304. Imposition of sanctions with respect to Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, any official, agent, or affiliate of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, and any person owned or controlled by Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps.

“Sec. 305. Definitions.

“Sec. 306. Rule of construction.”

SEC. 102. ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PERSONS THAT SUPPORT OR CONDUCT CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS WITH IRAN'S REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS OR OTHER SANCTIONED PERSONS.

(a) **IDENTIFICATION.**—Section 302(a)(1) of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8742(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter,” and inserting “Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, and every 60 days thereafter;”

(2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “, provide significant financial services to, or provide material support to” after “transactions with”;

(3) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “, provide significant financial services to, or provide material support to” after “transactions with”;

(B) in clause (i), by striking “or” at the end;

(C) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(D) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

“(iii) a person designated as a foreign terrorist organization under section 219(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189(a)) or that has provided support for an act of international terrorism (as defined in section 14 of the Iran Sanctions Act

of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note)); or

“(iv) a foreign person whose property and access to property has been blocked pursuant to Executive Order 13224 (September 23, 2001; relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism).”

(b) **IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.**—Section 302(b) of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8742(b)) is amended by striking “the President—” and all that follows and inserting “the President shall, in accordance with the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property with respect to such foreign person if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.”

(c) **WAIVER OF IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.**—Section 302(d) of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8742(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “for a period of not more than 60 days, and may renew that waiver for additional periods of not more than 60 days,” after “may waive”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **SUNSET.**—The provisions of this subsection and any waivers issued pursuant to this subsection shall terminate on December 31, 2018.”

(d) **WAIVER OF IDENTIFICATIONS AND DESIGNATIONS.**—Section 302(e) of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8742(e)) is amended—

(1) by striking “Notwithstanding” and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding”;

(2) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), by striking “and subject to paragraph (2)”;

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and moving the margins 2 ems to the right; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) **SUNSET.**—The provisions of this subsection and any waivers issued pursuant to this subsection shall terminate on December 31, 2018.”

(e) **APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS OF IRAN SANCTIONS ACT OF 1996.**—Section 302(f) of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8742(f)) is amended—

(1) by striking “The following provisions” and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The following provisions”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (8) as subparagraphs (A) through (H), respectively, and moving the margins 2 ems to the right; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) **SUNSET.**—Sections 4(c) and 9(c) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 shall not apply with respect to the imposition under subsection (b) of sanctions relating to activities described in subsection (a)(1), in accordance with the provision of paragraph (1) of this subsection, after December 31, 2018.”

SEC. 103. IRGC WATCH LIST AND REPORT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Treasury shall establish, maintain, and publish in the Federal Register a list (to be known as the “IRGC Watch List”) of—

(1) each entity in which the IRGC has an ownership interest of less than 25 percent;

(2) each entity in which the IRGC does not have an ownership interest if the IRGC maintains a presence on the board of directors of the entity or otherwise influences the

actions, policies, or personnel decisions of the entity; and

(3) each person that owns or controls an entity described in paragraph (1) or (2).

(b) REPORTS REQUIRED.—

(1) TREASURY REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(i) the list required by subsection (a) and, in the case of any report submitted under this subparagraph after the first such report, any changes to the list since the submission of the preceding such report; and

(ii) an assessment of the role of the IRGC in, and its penetration into, the economy of Iran.

(B) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report required by subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex if necessary.

(2) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(i) conduct a review of the list required by subsection (a); and

(ii) not later than 180 days after each report required by paragraph (1) is submitted to Congress, submit to Congress a report on the review conducted under clause (i).

(B) CONSULTATIONS.—In preparing the report required by subparagraph (A)(ii), the Comptroller General shall consult with non-governmental organizations.

SEC. 104. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS AGAINST MAHAN AIR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to—

(1) a person that provides, directly or indirectly, goods, services, technology, or financial services, including the sale or provision of aircraft or aircraft parts, fuel, ramp assistance, baggage and cargo handling, catering, refueling, ticketing, check-in services, crew handling, or other services related to flight operations, to or for Mahan Air or its agents or affiliates; or

(2) any person owned or controlled by, or any person that owns or controls, a person described in paragraph (1).

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

(1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—The President shall block, in accordance with the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), all transactions in all property and interests in property of any person subject to subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) EXCLUSION FROM UNITED STATES.—The Secretary of State shall deny a visa to, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall exclude from the United States, any person subject to subsection (a) that is an alien.

(c) COMPLIANCE WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Subsection (b)(2) shall not apply to the head of state of Iran, or necessary staff of that head of state, if admission to the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States.

(d) APPLICABILITY OF ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS.—A person with respect to which the President imposes sanctions under subsection (a) shall be considered an agent or affiliate of the IRGC for purposes of sections 104 and 104A of the Comprehensive Iran Sanc-

tions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8513 and 8513b).

(e) ADDITIONAL MEASURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall require each covered person to provide a certification to the President that the person does not conduct transactions with any person that provides, directly or indirectly, goods, services, technology, or financial services, including the sale or provision of aircraft or aircraft parts, fuel, ramp assistance, baggage or cargo handling, catering, refueling, ticketing, check-in services, crew handling, or other services related to flight operations—

(A) to Mahan Air or its agents or affiliates;

(B) for aircraft owned or operated by Mahan Air or its agents or affiliates; or

(C) to a person described in section 105(a).

(2) COVERED PERSON DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “covered person” means—

(A) an air carrier or foreign air carrier, as those terms are defined in section 40102 of title 49, United States Code; or

(B) a United States person that exports aircraft or components for aircraft.

(f) REPORTS REQUIRED.—

(1) DNI LIST.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Act, and annually thereafter, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall submit to Congress a list of each person described in subsection (e).

(B) FORM OF LIST.—Each list required by subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex if necessary.

(2) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Act, and annually thereafter, the President shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(i) a list of countries where aircraft of Mahan Air or its agents or affiliates land;

(ii) a description of the efforts of the President to encourage countries to prohibit aircraft of Mahan Air or its agents or affiliates from landing in the territory of those countries; and

(iii) if the President has not imposed sanctions under section 105(a) with respect to any person described in subsection (e), an explanation for why the President has not imposed such sanctions.

(B) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report required by subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex if necessary.

(3) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(i) conduct a review of the certifications required by subsection (a), the lists required by paragraph (1), and the reports required by paragraph (2); and

(ii) not later than 180 days after the submission of each list required by paragraph (1) and each report required by paragraph (2), submit to Congress a report on the review conducted under clause (i).

(B) CONSULTATIONS.—In preparing the report required by subparagraph (A)(ii), the Comptroller General shall consult with non-governmental organizations.

SEC. 105. MODIFICATION AND EXTENSION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ON THE USE OF CERTAIN IRANIAN SEAPORTS BY FOREIGN VESSELS AND USE OF FOREIGN AIRPORTS BY SANCTIONED IRANIAN AIR CARRIERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1252(a) of the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8808(a)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “2016” and inserting “2019”;

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

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) a description of all efforts the Department of State has made to encourage other countries to prohibit the use of air space and airports by Iranian air carriers described in paragraph (2) during the period specified in subsection (b).”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and apply with respect to reports required to be submitted under section 1252(a) of the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012 on or after such date of enactment.

TITLE II—IRAN BALLISTIC MISSILE SANCTIONS

SEC. 201. EXPANSION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO EFFORTS BY IRAN TO ACQUIRE BALLISTIC MISSILE AND RELATED TECHNOLOGY.

(a) CERTAIN PERSONS.—Section 1604(a) of the Iran-Iraq Arms Non-Proliferation Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-484; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by inserting “, to acquire ballistic missile or related technology,” after “nuclear weapons”.

(b) FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—Section 1605(a) of the Iran-Iraq Arms Non-Proliferation Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-484; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “, to acquire ballistic missile or related technology,” after “nuclear weapons”.

SEC. 202. EXPANSION OF SANCTIONS UNDER IRAN SANCTIONS ACT OF 1996 WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS THAT ACQUIRE OR DEVELOP BALLISTIC MISSILES.

Section 5(b)(1)(B) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “would likely” and inserting “may”; and

(2) in clause (ii)—

(A) in subclause (I), by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) by redesignating subclause (II) as subclause (III); and

(C) by inserting after subclause (I) the following:

“(II) acquire or develop ballistic missiles and the capability to launch ballistic missiles; or”.

SEC. 203. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO BALLISTIC MISSILE PROGRAM OF IRAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8721 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“Subtitle C—Measures Relating to Ballistic Missile Program of Iran

“SEC. 231. DEFINITIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In this subtitle:

“(1) AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—The term ‘agricultural commodity’ has the meaning given that term in section 102 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602).

“(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means the committees specified in section 14(2) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note).

“(3) CORRESPONDENT ACCOUNT; PAYABLE-THROUGH ACCOUNT.—The terms ‘correspondent account’ and ‘payable-through account’ have the meanings given those terms in section 5318A of title 31, United States Code.

“(4) FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term ‘foreign financial institution’ has the meaning of that term as determined by the

Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to section 104(i) of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8513(i)).

“(5) GOVERNMENT.—The term ‘Government’, with respect to a foreign country, includes any agencies or instrumentalities of that Government and any entities controlled by that Government.

“(6) MEDICAL DEVICE.—The term ‘medical device’ has the meaning given the term ‘device’ in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

“(7) MEDICINE.—The term ‘medicine’ has the meaning given the term ‘drug’ in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

“(b) DETERMINATIONS OF SIGNIFICANCE.—For purposes of this subtitle, in determining if financial transactions or financial services are significant, the President may consider the totality of the facts and circumstances, including factors similar to the factors set forth in section 561.404 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations (or any corresponding similar regulation or ruling).

“SEC. 232. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS THAT SUPPORT THE BALLISTIC MISSILE PROGRAM OF IRAN.

“(a) IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, and not less frequently than once every 180 days thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report identifying persons that have provided material support to the Government of Iran in the development of the ballistic missile program of Iran.

“(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) An identification of persons (disaggregated by Iranian and non-Iranian persons) with respect to which there is credible evidence that such persons have provided material support to the Government of Iran in the development of the ballistic missile program of Iran, including persons that have—

“(i) engaged in the direct or indirect provision of material support to such program;

“(ii) facilitated, supported, or engaged in activities to further the development of such program;

“(iii) transmitted information relating to ballistic missiles to the Government of Iran; or

“(iv) otherwise aided such program.

“(B) A description of the character and significance of the cooperation of each person identified under subparagraph (A) with the Government of Iran with respect to such program.

“(C) An assessment of the cooperation of the Government of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea with the Government of Iran with respect to such program.

“(3) CLASSIFIED ANNEX.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

“(b) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—Not later than 15 days after submitting a report required by subsection (a)(1), the President shall, in accordance with the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of any person specified in such report that engages in activities described in subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

“(c) EXCLUSION FROM UNITED STATES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary of State shall deny a visa to, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall exclude from the United States, any alien subject to blocking of property and interests in property under subsection (b).

“(2) COMPLIANCE WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the head of state of Iran, or necessary staff of that head of state, if admission to the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States.

“(d) FACILITATION OF CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS.—The President shall prohibit the opening, and prohibit or impose strict conditions on the maintaining, in the United States of a correspondent account or a payable-through account by a foreign financial institution that the President determines knowingly, on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, conducts or facilitates a significant financial transaction for a person subject to blocking of property and interests in property under subsection (b).

“SEC. 233. BLOCKING OF PROPERTY OF PERSONS AFFILIATED WITH CERTAIN IRANIAN ENTITIES.

“(a) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, in accordance with the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of any person described in paragraph (2) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

“(2) PERSONS DESCRIBED.—A person described in this paragraph is—

“(A) an entity that is owned or controlled—

“(i) by the Aerospace Industries Organization, the Shahid Hemmat Industrial Group, the Shahid Bakeri Industrial Group, or any agent or affiliate of such organization or group; or

“(ii) collectively by a group of individuals that hold an interest in the Aerospace Industries Organization, the Shahid Hemmat Industrial Group, the Shahid Bakeri Industrial Group, or any agent or affiliate of such organization or group, even if none of those individuals hold a 25 percent or greater interest in the entity; or

“(B) a person that owns or controls an entity described in subparagraph (A).

“(b) FACILITATION OF CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS.—The President shall prohibit the opening, and prohibit or impose strict conditions on the maintaining, in the United States of a correspondent account or a payable-through account by a foreign financial institution that the President determines knowingly, on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, conducts or facilitates a significant financial transaction for a person subject to blocking of property and interests in property under subsection (a).

“(c) IRAN MISSILE PROLIFERATION WATCH LIST.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and publish in the Federal Register a list of—

“(A) each entity in which the Aerospace Industries Organization, the Shahid Hemmat Industrial Group, the Shahid Bakeri Industrial Group, or any agent or affiliate of such organization or group has an ownership interest of more than 0 percent and less than 25 percent;

“(B) each entity in which the Aerospace Industries Organization, the Shahid Hemmat Industrial Group, the Shahid Bakeri Industrial Group, or any agent or affiliate of such organization or group does not have an ownership interest but maintains a presence on the board of directors of the entity or otherwise influences the actions, policies, or personnel decisions of the entity; and

“(C) each person that owns or controls an entity described in subparagraph (A) or (B).

“(2) REFERENCE.—The list required by paragraph (1) may be referred to as the ‘Iran Missile Proliferation Watch List’.

“(d) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall—

“(A) conduct a review of each list required by subsection (c)(1); and

“(B) not later than 180 days after each such list is submitted to the appropriate congressional committees under that subsection, submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the review conducted under subparagraph (A) that includes a list of persons not included in that list that qualify for inclusion in that list, as determined by the Comptroller General.

“(2) CONSULTATIONS.—In preparing the report required by paragraph (1)(B), the Comptroller General shall consult with non-governmental organizations.

“SEC. 234. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN PERSONS INVOLVED IN BALLISTIC MISSILE ACTIVITIES.

“(a) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, and not less frequently than once every 180 days thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a certification that each person listed in an annex of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), or 1929 (2010) is not directly or indirectly facilitating, supporting, or involved with the development of or transfer to Iran of ballistic missiles or technology, parts, components, or technology information relating to ballistic missiles.

“(b) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—If the President is unable to make a certification under subsection (a) with respect to a person and the person is not currently subject to sanctions with respect to Iran under any other provision of law, the President shall, not later than 15 days after that certification would have been required under that subsection—

“(1) in accordance with the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of that person if such property and interests in property are in the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person; and

“(2) publish in the Federal Register a report describing the reason why the President was unable to make a certification with respect to that person.

“(c) EXCLUSION FROM UNITED STATES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary of State shall deny a visa to, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall exclude from the United States, any alien subject to blocking of property and interests in property under subsection (b).

“(2) COMPLIANCE WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Paragraph (1)

shall not apply to the head of state of Iran, or necessary staff of that head of state, if admission to the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States.

“(d) FACILITATION OF CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS.—The President shall prohibit the opening, and prohibit or impose strict conditions on the maintaining, in the United States of a correspondent account or a payable-through account by a foreign financial institution that the President determines knowingly, on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, conducts or facilitates a significant financial transaction for a person subject to blocking of property and interests in property under subsection (b).

“SEC. 235. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN SECTORS OF IRAN THAT SUPPORT THE BALLISTIC MISSILE PROGRAM OF IRAN.

“(a) LIST OF SECTORS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, and not less frequently than once every 180 days thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and publish in the Federal Register a list of the sectors of the economy of Iran that are directly or indirectly facilitating, supporting, or involved with the development of or transfer to Iran of ballistic missiles or technology, parts, components, or technology information relating to ballistic missiles.

“(2) CERTAIN SECTORS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a determination as to whether each of the chemical, computer science, construction, electronic, metallurgy, mining, research (including universities and research institutions), and telecommunications sectors of Iran meet the criteria specified in paragraph (1).

“(B) INCLUSION IN INITIAL LIST.—If the President determines under subparagraph (A) that the sectors of the economy of Iran specified in such subparagraph meet the criteria specified in paragraph (1), that sector shall be included in the initial list submitted and published under that paragraph.

“(b) SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO SPECIFIED SECTORS OF IRAN.—

“(1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—The President shall, in accordance with the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of any person described in paragraph (4) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

“(2) EXCLUSION FROM UNITED STATES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary of State shall deny a visa to, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall exclude from the United States, any alien that is a person described in paragraph (4).

“(B) COMPLIANCE WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to the head of state of Iran, or necessary staff of that head of state, if admission to the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at

Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States.

“(3) FACILITATION OF CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS.—Except as provided in this section, the President shall prohibit the opening, and prohibit or impose strict conditions on the maintaining, in the United States of a correspondent account or a payable-through account by a foreign financial institution that the President determines knowingly, on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, conducts or facilitates a significant financial transaction for a person described in paragraph (4).

“(4) PERSONS DESCRIBED.—A person is described in this paragraph if the President determines that the person, on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Iran Accountability Act of 2016—

“(A) operates in a sector of the economy of Iran included in the most recent list published by the President under subsection (a);

“(B) knowingly provides significant financial, material, technological, or other support to, or goods or services in support of, any activity or transaction on behalf of or for the benefit of a person described in subparagraph (A); or

“(C) is owned or controlled by a person described in subparagraph (A).

“(c) HUMANITARIAN EXCEPTION.—The President may not impose sanctions under this section with respect to any person for conducting or facilitating a transaction for the sale of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, or medical devices to Iran or for the provision of humanitarian assistance to the people of Iran.

“SEC. 236. IDENTIFICATION OF FOREIGN PERSONS THAT SUPPORT THE BALLISTIC MISSILE PROGRAM OF IRAN IN CERTAIN SECTORS OF IRAN.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and publish in the Federal Register a list of all foreign persons that have, based on credible information, directly or indirectly facilitated, supported, or been involved with the development of ballistic missiles or technology, parts, components, or technology information related to ballistic missiles in the following sectors of the economy of Iran during the period specified in subsection (b):

“(1) Chemical.

“(2) Computer Science.

“(3) Construction.

“(4) Electronic.

“(5) Metallurgy.

“(6) Mining.

“(7) Petrochemical.

“(8) Research (including universities and research institutions).

“(9) Telecommunications.

“(10) Any other sector of the economy of Iran identified under section 235(a).

“(b) PERIOD SPECIFIED.—The period specified in this subsection is—

“(1) with respect to the first list submitted under subsection (a), the period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Iran Accountability Act of 2016 and ending on the date that is 120 days after such date of enactment; and

“(2) with respect to each subsequent list submitted under such subsection, the one year period preceding the submission of the list.

“(c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to each list submitted under subsection (a), not later than 120 days after the list is submitted

under that subsection, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees—

“(A) an assessment of the processes followed by the President in preparing the list;

“(B) an assessment of the foreign persons included in the list; and

“(C) a list of persons not included in the list that qualify for inclusion in the list, as determined by the Comptroller General.

“(2) CONSULTATIONS.—In preparing the report required by paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall consult with non-governmental organizations.

“(d) CREDIBLE INFORMATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘credible information’ has the meaning given that term in section 14 of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note).

“Subtitle D—General Provisions

“SEC. 241. DEFINITIONS.

“In this title:

“(1) ENTITY.—The term ‘entity’ means any corporation, business association, partnership, trust, society, or any other entity.

“(2) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ‘foreign person’ means a person that is not a United States person.

“(3) OWN OR CONTROL.—The term ‘own or control’ means, with respect to an entity—

“(A) to hold more than 25 percent of the equity interest by vote or value in the entity;

“(B) to hold any seats on the board of directors of the entity; or

“(C) to otherwise control the actions, policies, or personnel decisions of the entity.

“(4) PERSON.—The term ‘person’ means an individual or entity.

“(5) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ‘United States person’ means—

“(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

“(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 224 the following:

“Subtitle C—Measures Relating to Ballistic Missile Program of Iran

“Sec. 231. Definitions.

“Sec. 232. Imposition of sanctions with respect to persons that support the ballistic missile program of Iran.

“Sec. 233. Blocking of property of persons affiliated with certain Iranian entities.

“Sec. 234. Imposition of sanctions with respect to certain persons involved in ballistic missile activities.

“Sec. 235. Imposition of sanctions with respect to certain sectors of Iran that support the ballistic missile program of Iran.

“Sec. 236. Identification of foreign persons that support the ballistic missile program of Iran in certain sectors of Iran.

“Subtitle D—General Provisions

“Sec. 241. Definitions.”

SEC. 204. EXPANSION OF MANDATORY SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ENGAGE IN CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS RELATING TO BALLISTIC MISSILE CAPABILITIES OF IRAN.

Section 104 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8513) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2)—
 (A) in subparagraph (A)—
 (i) in clause (i), by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;
 (ii) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii); and
 (iii) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

“(ii) to acquire or develop ballistic missiles and capabilities and launch technology relating to ballistic missiles; or”;

(B) in subparagraph (E)(ii)—
 (i) in subclause (I), by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;
 (ii) by redesignating subclause (II) as subclause (III); and
 (iii) by inserting after subclause (I) the following:

“(II) Iran’s development of ballistic missiles and capabilities and launch technology relating to ballistic missiles; or”;

(2) in subsection (f)—
 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and moving those subparagraphs, as so redesignated, two ems to the right;

(B) by striking “WAIVER.—The” and inserting “WAIVER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary of the Treasury may not waive under paragraph (1) the application of a prohibition or condition imposed with respect to an activity described in subparagraph (A)(ii) or (E)(ii)(II) of subsection (c)(2).”

SEC. 205. DISCLOSURE TO THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION OF ACTIVITIES WITH CERTAIN SECTORS OF IRAN THAT SUPPORT THE BALLISTIC MISSILE PROGRAM OF IRAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 13(r)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(r)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) knowingly engaged in any activity for which sanctions may be imposed under section 235 of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012;”

(b) INVESTIGATIONS.—Section 13(r)(5)(A) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is amended by striking “an Executive order specified in clause (i) or (ii) of paragraph (1)(D)” and inserting “section 235 of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012, an Executive order specified in clause (i) or (ii) of paragraph (1)(E)”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 13(r)(5) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “subparagraph (D)(iii)” and inserting “subparagraph (E)(iii)”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect with respect to reports required to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 206. REGULATIONS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall prescribe regulations to carry out this title and the amendments made by this title.

TITLE III—SANCTIONS RELATING TO IRAN’S SUPPORT OF TERRORISM

SEC. 301. SPECIAL MEASURES WITH RESPECT TO IRAN RELATING TO ITS DESIGNATION AS A JURISDICTION OF PRIMARY MONEY LAUNDERING CONCERN.

(a) PROHIBITION ON DIRECT USE OF CORRESPONDENT ACCOUNTS.—A covered financial

institution shall terminate any correspondent account that—

(1) is established, maintained, administered, or managed in the United States for, or on behalf of, an Iranian banking institution; and

(2) is not blocked under any Executive Order issued pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(b) SPECIAL DUE DILIGENCE MEASURES FOR CORRESPONDENT ACCOUNTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A covered financial institution shall apply special due diligence measures to correspondent accounts of the financial institution that are reasonably designed to guard against the improper indirect use of such accounts by Iranian banking institutions.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The special due diligence measures a covered financial institution is required to apply to correspondent accounts under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum—

(A) notifying the holders of such accounts that the covered financial institution knows or has reason to know provide services to Iranian banking institutions, that such holders generally may not provide Iranian banking institutions with access to such accounts; and

(B) taking reasonable steps to identify any indirect use of such accounts by Iranian banking institutions, to the extent that such indirect use can be determined from transactional records maintained by the covered financial institution in the normal course of business.

(3) RISK-BASED APPROACH.—A covered financial institution shall take a risk-based approach when deciding what, if any, other due diligence measures the financial institution should adopt to guard against the improper indirect use of its correspondent accounts by Iranian banking institutions.

(4) RESPONSE TO INDIRECT ACCESS BY IRANIAN BANKING INSTITUTIONS.—A covered financial institution that obtains credible information that a correspondent account is being used by a foreign bank to provide indirect access to an Iranian banking institution, shall—

(A) take all appropriate steps to prevent such indirect access, including notifying the holder of the account under paragraph (1)(A); and

(B) where necessary, terminate the account.

(c) RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A covered financial institution shall document its compliance with the notice requirement set forth in subsection (b)(2)(A).

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall require a covered financial institution to report any information not otherwise required to be reported by law or regulation.

(d) TERMINATION.—This section shall terminate on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the President submits to Congress—

(1) the certification described in section 401(a) of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8551(a)); and

(2) a certification that the Financial Action Task Force has lifted its call for countermeasures against Iran and Iran has become a member of a regional body of the Financial Action Task Force.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CORRESPONDENT ACCOUNT.—The term “correspondent account” has the meaning given that term in section 1010.605 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act).

(2) COVERED FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term “covered financial institution” has the meaning given that term under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1010.605(e) of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act).

(3) FOREIGN BANK.—The term “foreign bank” has the meaning given that term in section 1010.100(u) of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act).

(4) IRANIAN BANKING INSTITUTION.—The term “Iranian banking institution” means—

(A) any foreign bank chartered by Iran, including—

(i) any branches, offices, or subsidiaries of such a bank operating in any jurisdiction; and

(ii) any branch or office within Iran of any foreign bank licensed by Iran;

(B) the Central Bank of Iran; and

(C) any foreign bank of which more than 50 percent of the voting stock or analogous interest is owned by two or more foreign banks chartered by Iran.

TITLE IV—SANCTIONS RELATING TO HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN IRAN

SEC. 401. EXPANSION OF LIST OF PERSONS INVOLVED IN HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN IRAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 105 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8514) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “CERTAIN PERSONS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OR COMPLICIT” and inserting “PERSONS INVOLVED”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OR COMPLICIT” and inserting “INVOLVED”;

(B) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of persons the President determines have committed or facilitated, directly or indirectly, human rights abuses or other acts of violence, intimidation, or harassment, on behalf of the Government of Iran on or after June 12, 2009, regardless of whether such abuses or acts occurred in Iran.”;

(C) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “this Act” and inserting “the Iran Accountability Act of 2016”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) INCLUSION OF ACTIONS THAT VIOLATE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.—For purposes of subsection (b)(1), the term ‘human rights abuses’ includes actions that violate the rights listed in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted at Paris December 10, 1948.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 is amended by striking the item relating to section 105 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 105. Imposition of sanctions on persons involved in human rights abuses committed against citizens of Iran or their family members after the June 12, 2009, elections in Iran.”

SEC. 402. IDENTIFICATION OF, AND IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO, CERTAIN IRANIAN INDIVIDUALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 221 of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8727) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 221. IDENTIFICATION OF, AND IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO, CERTAIN IRANIAN INDIVIDUALS.

“(a) IDENTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUALS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, and every 180 days thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and publish in the Federal Register a list of all individuals the President determines are described in subsection (b).

“(b) INDIVIDUALS DESCRIBED.—An individual described in this subsection is—

- “(1) the Supreme Leader of Iran;
- “(2) the President of Iran;
- “(3) a current or former key official, manager, or director of an entity that is owned or controlled after November 14, 1979, by—
 - “(A) the Supreme Leader of Iran;
 - “(B) the Office of the Supreme Leader of Iran;
 - “(C) the President of Iran;
 - “(D) the Office of the President of Iran;
 - “(E) Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps;
 - “(F) the Basij-e Motaz’afin;
 - “(G) the Guardian Council;
 - “(H) the Ministry of Intelligence and Security of Iran;
 - “(I) the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran;
 - “(J) the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran;
 - “(K) the Assembly of Experts of Iran;
 - “(L) the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics of Iran;
 - “(M) the Ministry of Justice of Iran;
 - “(N) the Ministry of Interior of Iran;
 - “(O) the prison system of Iran;
 - “(P) the judicial system of Iran, including the Islamic Revolutionary Courts; or
 - “(Q) any citizen of Iran included on the list of specially designated nationals and blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury;

“(4) a citizen of Iran indicted in a foreign country for, or otherwise suspected of, participation in a terrorist attack;

“(5) a person that ordered, controlled, directed, or was otherwise complicit in the kidnaping or politically motivated detention of a United States citizen, including a United States citizen who is also a citizen of another country; or

“(6) a significant foreign political figure associated with an individual described in any of paragraphs (1) through (5) who is not a United States person.

“(c) EXCLUSION FROM UNITED STATES.—Except as provided in subsection (f), the Secretary of State shall deny a visa to, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall exclude from the United States, any alien who is on the list required by subsection (a).

“(d) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—Except as provided in subsection (f), the President shall, in accordance with the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of any individual who is on the list required by subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

“(e) REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, and every 90 days thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that describes the efforts the President has taken during the 90 days preceding the submission of the report to locate and block all property and interests in property of any individual who is on the list required by subsection (a).

“(2) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex if necessary.

“(f) EXCEPTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may not include an individual on the list required by subsection (a) if the President determines that, during the 10-year period preceding the determination, the individual has not in any way engaged in, facilitated, or otherwise supported—

- “(A) human rights abuses;
- “(B) acts of international terrorism; or
- “(C) the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

“(2) COMPLIANCE WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Subsection (c) shall not apply to the head of state of Iran, or necessary staff of that head of state, if admission to the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States.

“(g) WAIVER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the application of subsection (c) or (d) with respect to an individual for a period of 180 days, and may renew that waiver for additional periods of 180 days, if the President—

- “(A) determines that the waiver is vital to the national security of the United States; and
- “(B) not less than 7 days before the waiver or the renewal of the waiver, as the case may be, takes effect, submits a report to the appropriate congressional committees on the waiver and the reason for the waiver.

“(2) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1)(B) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex if necessary.

“(3) SUNSET.—The provisions of this subsection and any waivers issued pursuant to this subsection shall terminate on December 31, 2018.

“(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) OWN OR CONTROL.—The term ‘own or control’ means, with respect to an entity—

“(A) to hold more than 25 percent of the equity interest by vote or value in the entity;

“(B) to hold any seats on the board of directors of the entity; or

“(C) to otherwise control the actions, policies, or personnel decisions of the entity.

“(2) SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN POLITICAL FIGURE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘significant foreign political figure’ includes a current or former senior political figure, the immediate family of such a figure, and close associates of such a figure.

“(B) ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A):

“(i) CLOSE ASSOCIATE.—The term ‘close associate’, with respect to a senior political figure—

“(I) means an individual who is widely and publicly known to maintain an unusually close relationship with the senior political figure; and

“(II) includes an individual who is in a position to conduct substantial domestic and international financial transactions on behalf of the senior political figure.

“(ii) IMMEDIATE FAMILY.—The term ‘immediate family’, with respect to a senior foreign political figure, means the parents, siblings, spouse, children, and in-laws of the senior political figure.

“(iii) SENIOR POLITICAL FIGURE.—The term ‘senior political figure’ means a senior official in the executive, legislative, administrative, military, or judicial branches of the

Government of Iran (whether elected or not), a senior official of a major political party in Iran, or a senior executive of an entity owned or controlled by the Government of Iran.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.) is amended by striking the item relating to section 221 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 221. Identification of, and imposition of sanctions with respect to, certain Iranian individuals.”

SEC. 403. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS WHO CONDUCT TRANSACTIONS WITH OR ON BEHALF OF CERTAIN IRANIAN INDIVIDUALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title II of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8721 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 221 the following:

“SEC. 221A. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS WHO CONDUCT TRANSACTIONS WITH OR ON BEHALF OF CERTAIN IRANIAN INDIVIDUALS.

“(a) SALE, SUPPLY, OR TRANSFER OF GOODS AND SERVICES.—The President shall impose 5 or more of the sanctions described in section 6(a) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) with respect to a person that knowingly, on or after the date that is 120 days after the date of the enactment of the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, sells, supplies, or transfers goods or services to an individual who is on the list required by section 221(a).

“(b) FACILITATION OF CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS.—The President shall prohibit the opening, and prohibit or impose strict conditions on the maintaining, in the United States of a correspondent account or a payable-through account by any foreign financial institution that has knowingly conducted or facilitated a significant financial transaction on behalf of an individual who is on the list required by section 221(a).

“(c) APPLICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE IRAN SANCTIONS ACT OF 1996.—The following provisions of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) shall apply with respect to the imposition of sanctions under subsection (a) to the same extent that such provisions apply with respect to the imposition of sanctions under section 5(a) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996:

“(1) Subsections (c), (d), and (f) of section 5.

“(2) Section 8.

“(3) Section 11.

“(4) Section 12.

“(5) Section 13(b).

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

“(1) ACCOUNT; CORRESPONDENT ACCOUNT; PAYABLE-THROUGH ACCOUNT.—The terms ‘account’, ‘correspondent account’, and ‘payable-through account’ have the meanings given those terms in section 5318A of title 31, United States Code.

“(2) FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term ‘foreign financial institution’ has the meaning given that term in section 561.308 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations (or any corresponding similar regulation or ruling).”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 221 the following:

“Sec. 221A. Imposition of sanctions with respect to persons who conduct transactions with or on behalf of certain Iranian individuals.”

SEC. 404. MANDATORY SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ENGAGE IN CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS ON BEHALF OF PERSONS INVOLVED IN HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES OR THAT EXPORT SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY TO IRAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 104(c)(2) of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8513(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) facilitates a significant transaction or transactions or provides significant financial services for a person that is subject to sanctions under section 105(c), 105A(c), 105B(c), or 105C(a).”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and apply with respect to any activity described in subparagraph (F) of section 104(c)(2) of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010, as added by subsection (a)(3), initiated on or after the date that is 90 days after such date of enactment.

(c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe regulations to carry out the amendments made by subsection (a).

SEC. 405. UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF IRAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title IV of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8751 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 416. UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF IRAN.

“(a) POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES.—It is the policy of the United States—

“(1) to support the efforts of the people of Iran to promote the establishment of basic freedoms in Iran;

“(2) to lay the foundation for the emergence of a freely elected, open, and democratic political system in Iran that is not a threat to its neighbors or to the United States and to work with all citizens of Iran who seek to establish such a political system;

“(3) to support the emergence of a government in Iran that does not oppress the people of Iran and does not persecute, intimidate, arrest, imprison, or execute dissidents or minorities;

“(4) to advocate on behalf of those in Iran persecuted for their religion or belief;

“(5) to assist the people of Iran to produce, access, and share information freely and safely through the Internet and other media; and

“(6) to defeat all attempts by the Government of Iran to jam or otherwise obstruct international satellite broadcast signals.

“(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

“(1) the United States should support citizens of Iran that actively work to advance political, economic, and social reforms, including freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, and representative government;

“(2) the President should use all available nonviolent means to support citizens of Iran that advocate for pluralistic, prosperous, and participatory societies;

“(3) programs of the Department of State to support reform in Iran have not resulted in a more democratic Iran;

“(4) the Government of Iran continues to play a pernicious role in the Middle East, undermining democratic consolidation in Iraq, supporting international terrorism through

Hezbollah, and aiding the autocratic regime of Bashar al-Assad in Syria;

“(5) the Secretary of State should make every effort to deliver support directly to people working in Iran to implement programs carried out using assistance provided by the Department of State when possible and all possible means of delivering such assistance should be used; and

“(6) oversight, management, and implementation of programs of the Department of State to support reform in Iran should be under the direction of the Special Coordinator on Human Rights and Democracy in Iran established under section 406 of the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

“(c) ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT REFORM IN IRAN.—

“(1) ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of State may provide assistance (including through the award of grants) to individuals and entities working in Iran for the purpose of supporting and promoting the rule of law, good governance, civil society, and economic opportunity in Iran.

“(2) ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE.—Assistance authorized under this subsection should be provided only to a person that—

“(A) officially opposes the use of violence and terrorism and has not been designated as a foreign terrorist organization under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189) at any time during the 4-year period ending on the date of the enactment of the Iran Accountability Act of 2016;

“(B) advocates the adherence by Iran to nonproliferation regimes for nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and materiel, and ballistic missiles;

“(C) is dedicated to democratic values and supports the adoption of a democratic form of government in Iran;

“(D) is dedicated to respect for human rights, including the fundamental equality of women; and

“(E) supports freedom of the press, freedom of speech, freedom of association, and freedom of religion.

“(3) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 15 days before each obligation of assistance under this subsection, the Secretary of State shall notify the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives in accordance with the procedures applicable to reprogramming notifications under section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2394-1).

“(4) TERMINATION.—The authority to provide assistance under this subsection shall expire on December 31, 2020.

“(d) REPORTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the implementation of this section that includes the following:

“(A) An identification of the actions the President has taken during the 180-day period immediately preceding the submission of the report to advance each of the policies described in subsection (a).

“(B) A clear strategy for advancing political, economic, and social reform in Iran that includes benchmarks for success that lead to a set of identified discrete goals and objectives.

“(C) A plan to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the provision of assistance authorized under subsection (c), including measures of effectiveness.

“(D) The status of the programming of assistance under subsection (c).

“(E) An analysis of any past programming of assistance under subsection (c) and its effectiveness with respect to supporting and promoting the rule of law, good governance, civil society, and economic opportunity in Iran.

“(2) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex if necessary.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 415 the following:

“Sec. 416. United States support for the people of Iran.”

SEC. 406. UNITED STATES SPECIAL COORDINATOR ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY IN IRAN.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The President shall designate within the Department of State a Special Coordinator on Human Rights and Democracy in Iran (in this section referred to as the “Special Coordinator”).

(b) CONSULTATION AND QUALIFICATIONS.—Before the President designates a Special Coordinator under subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall consult with the chairmen and ranking members of the appropriate congressional committees. The role of Special Coordinator should be filled by an official of the Department of State appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the President in a position not lower than Under Secretary on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) DUTIES.—The Special Coordinator shall carry out the following duties:

(1) Coordinate the activities of the United States Government that promote human rights, democracy, political freedom, and religious freedom inside Iran.

(2) Coordinate the activities of the United States Government that promote human rights, political freedom, and religious freedom for Iranian refugees and asylees living outside Iran.

(3) Ensure the comprehensive investigation and designation of Iranian human rights abusers in accordance with section 105 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8514).

(4) Coordinate the documentation and publicizing of political dissidents and cases of human rights abuse inside Iran.

(5) Coordinate multilateral efforts to build international support for the promotion of human rights, democracy, political freedom, and religious freedom in Iran, including broadcasting, Internet access, and dissemination of information.

(6) Encourage the United Nations, multilateral organizations, and human rights nongovernmental organizations to more robustly investigate and report on human rights abuses in Iran.

(7) Encourage foreign governments to downgrade or sever diplomatic relations with the Government of Iran, enact economic sanctions, and assist Iranian dissidents in response to the continued violations of human rights by the Government of Iran.

(8) Encourage foreign governments to expel Iran from international fora and organizations with a human rights component, including the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children’s Fund, and the International Labour Organization.

(9) Coordinate all programs to promote human rights, democracy, political freedom, and religious freedom inside Iran.

(d) AUTHORITY.—

(1) COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.—The Special Coordinator shall coordinate all activities related to Iran carried out by the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, and the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration of the Department of State, the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, the National Endowment for Democracy, and the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

(2) COORDINATION OF USE OF FUNDS.—The Special Coordinator shall coordinate and oversee the obligation and expenditure of funds related to human rights, democracy, Internet freedom, and broadcasting activities in Iran, including funds made available for such purposes to the Middle East Partnership Initiative, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, the Broader Middle East and North Africa Initiative, the Human Rights and Democracy Fund, and the Near Eastern Regional Democracy Fund.

(e) DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION.—Subject to the direction of the President and the Secretary of State, the Special Coordinator shall represent the United States in matters and cases relevant to the promotion of human rights, democracy, political freedom, and religious freedom in Iran in—

(1) contacts with foreign governments, intergovernmental organizations, and specialized agencies of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and other international organizations of which the United States is a member; and

(2) multilateral conferences and meetings relevant to the promotion of human rights, democracy, political freedom, and religious freedom in Iran.

(f) CONSULTATIONS.—The Special Coordinator shall consult with Congress, domestic and international nongovernmental organizations, labor organizations, and multilateral organizations and institutions as the Special Coordinator considers appropriate to fulfill the purposes of this section.

(g) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 407. BROADCASTING TO IRAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and the Voice of America services broadcasting to Iran shall—

(1) provide news and information that is accessible, credible, comprehensive, and accurate;

(2) emphasize investigative and analytical journalism provided by Iranian or pro-Iranian media outlets; and

(3) strengthen civil society by promoting democratic processes, respect for human rights, and freedom of the press and expression.

(b) PROGRAMMING SURGE.—Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and Voice of America programming to Iran shall—

(1) provide programming content 24 hours a day and 7 days a week to target populations using all available and effective distribution outlets, including at least 12 hours a day of original television and video content, not including live video streaming of breaking news;

(2) create mobile platforms with an embedded proxy to offer the people of Iran the opportunity to securely listen to programming;

(3) increase number of staffers based in the region to allow for more direct contact with the people of Iran;

(4) expand the use, audience, and audience engagement of mobile news and multimedia platforms by the Voice of America and the Radio Farda service of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, including through Internet-based social networking platforms; and

(5) establish fellowships for Iranian journalists who have fled the country to learn about free, competitive media and be trained in surrogate reporting.

SEC. 408. REPORT ON UNITED STATES CITIZENS DETAINED BY IRAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on United States citizens, including dual citizens, detained by Iran or groups supported by Iran that includes—

(1) information regarding any officials of the Government of Iran involved in any way in the detentions; and

(2) a summary of efforts the United States Government has taken to secure the swift release of those United States citizens, including United States citizens who are also citizens of other countries.

(b) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex if necessary.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” has the meaning given that term in section 14 of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note).

SEC. 409. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRAN.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United Nations has a significant role to play in promoting and improving human rights in Iran;

(2) the United States should continue to support the work of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran; and

(3) the egregious human rights violations in Iran warrant country-specific attention and continued reporting by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes, and consequences, of the United Nations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 5631, the Iran Accountability Act of 2016.

This week marks the first anniversary of President Obama's agreement with Iran. I wish I could say that it has been a win, or the win that the proponents had hoped for. But a sober assessment is that both the short-term and long-term national security interests of the United States have been deeply impacted here. We have suffered as a result of this agreement.

Under the deal, the Obama administration promised that we would be in a position to verify all of Iran's commitments under the agreement. This just has not been the case. A year later, we have less public information about Iran's nuclear activities than we did before the pact.

International inspectors were to have full and unrestricted access to any military or suspicious location in Iran. Now, it turns out that the deal included an unprecedented arrangement that relies on Iran to “self-inspect” its Parchin military complex.

The administration insisted that a U.N. Security Council resolution would continue to prohibit Iran's ballistic missile development. The reality is that it has a loophole big enough for Iran to shoot an intercontinental ballistic missile through, and Iran has shot through that loophole. Some of those tested missiles that they have shot through that loophole are marked “Israel must be wiped off the Earth.” That is what is in writing in Farsi on the side of them. And if anybody should not get the message, it is also written in Hebrew.

When the Obama administration was strong-arming its allies in the other body to save its Iran deal, many promises were made. Central to the White House story line was the President's claim that sanctions on Iran for terrorism, sanctions for human rights, and sanctions on the ballistic missiles, in their words, “will continue to be fully enforced.”

This, unfortunately, has not happened. Unfortunately, the administration's words have not matched its actions. The administration has meekly responded to Iran's provocative acts, thanks in part to the weak U.N. Security Council language in which we wattered down the previous language on ballistic missiles. That was agreed to by the administration. And just one, only one Iranian, one sole individual, has been sanctioned for human rights abuses since negotiations began—one.

Indeed, last month, a top Treasury official publicly proclaimed that terrorism and missile sanctions would undermine the Iran agreement. That is not what this committee was originally told before this agreement was voted on. We were told exactly the opposite.

By now, every Member should know the pattern, and the pattern is this. If

Iran objects, the administration bends over backwards to accommodate. Effectively, the Supreme Leader now holds the veto pin over future congressional action. This policy of what I call “walking on egg shells” in deference to Tehran hurts our U.S. national security interest.

And it doesn't have to be this way. The nuclear agreement permits sanctions on the Iranian regime for activities such as missile tests, terrorism, and human rights abuses. Indeed, that is what the administration said they would do after they struck their deal. This legislation before the House holds the administration to their promises to us.

Among other provisions, this legislation increases sanctions against Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. That is what we call the IRGC. It expands sanctions against Iran for its ballistic missile development, and we should. It stresses the fundamental human rights of the Iranian people as key to our national security concerns.

I would just say Congress has an obligation to look for ways to stem the tide of Iranian aggression in the region and to stem the tide of its repression of the Persian, of the Iranian people at home.

I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, July 11, 2016.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE, I am writing with respect to H.R. 5631, the “Iran Accountability Act of 2016.” As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H.R. 5631 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means, I agree to waive consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that by forgoing consideration of H.R. 5631 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for such request.

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

Sincerely,

KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, July 11, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Af-

fairs on H.R. 5631, the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, and for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of that bill.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your Committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 5631 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with your Committee as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PER-
MANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON IN-
TELLIGENCE,
Washington, DC, July 11, 2016.

Hon. ED ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: On July 6, 2016, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (“the Committee”) received a referral for H.R. 5631, the “Iran Accountability Act of 2016.”

In order to expedite the House's consideration of this important legislation, the Committee will forego consideration of the measure. This waiver is, however, conditioned on our mutual understanding that it does not diminish or otherwise affect any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matter contained in the bill or any similar legislation.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging the Committee's jurisdictional interest into any committee report on H.R. 5631 and into the Congressional Record during its floor consideration. I would also appreciate your support for the appointment of Committee members to any House-Senate conference on this legislation. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DEVIN NUNES,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, July 11, 2016.

Hon. DEVIN NUNES,
Chairman, Permanent Select Committee on In-
telligence, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H.R. 5631, the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, and for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of that bill.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your Committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 5631 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with your Committee as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, July 11, 2016.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Govern-
ment Reform, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H.R. 5631, the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, and for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of that bill.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your Committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 5631 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with your Committee as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOV-
ERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC, July 11, 2016.

Hon. EDWARD ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write concerning H.R. 5631, the Iran Accountability Act of 2016. As you know, the Committee on Foreign Affairs received an original referral and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform a secondary referral when the bill was introduced on July 6, 2016. I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House of Representatives in an expeditious manner, and accordingly, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform will forego action on the bill.

The Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 5631 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. Further, I request your support for the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform during any House-Senate conference convened on this or related legislation.

I would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on H.R. 5631 be included in the bill report filed by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as well as in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Sincerely,

JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, July 12, 2016.

Hon. ED ROYCE
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing concerning H.R. 5631, the “Iran Accountability Act of 2016.”

As a result of your having consulted with the Committee on Financial Services concerning provisions in the bill that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction, I agree to forgo action on the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor. The Committee on Financial Services takes this action with our mutual understanding that, by foregoing

consideration of H.R. 5631 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for any such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 5631 and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill.

Sincerely,

JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, July 11, 2016.

Hon. JEB HENSARLING
*Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H.R. 5631, the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, and for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of that bill.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your Committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 5631 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with your Committee as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

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

I rise in opposition to this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I just walked here from our hearing room where the Foreign Affairs Committee marked up 13 measures. We had a committee meeting this morning. Some were written by Republicans, some by Democrats. When these bills and resolutions were first introduced, a lot of Members had questions and concerns. But the committee went to work ironing out differences, and now all 13 pieces of legislation have been favorably reported with bipartisan support.

That is how our committee works. That is how our chairman, ED ROYCE, runs things. That is why we say that the Foreign Affairs Committee is the most bipartisan committee in the entire Congress, and I am proud of that as a ranking member.

I believe, and we believe, that partisanship should end at the water's edge. When it comes to fighting for our country, there should be no Democrats and Republicans. We should be working together on this. Partisanship should end at the water's edge. And that is our best how we legislate, especially when

it comes to advancing American interests and security overseas. So it is rather jarring, Mr. Speaker, to walk onto the floor to debate the majority leader's bill—80 pages of new sanctions on the Iranian regime, introduced literally in the middle of the night last week, rammed through the Rules Committee, brought to the floor without any chance to improve it or any input from the Foreign Affairs Committee.

That is a disappointment, Mr. Speaker, because there are plenty of us on both sides of the aisle who think we should be doing more to hold Iran's leaders accountable for their bad behavior. After all, Iran is the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism. Iran props up the Assad regime, detains Americans on trumped-up charges, and has racked up the worst record on human rights you could imagine.

Congress could speak with a unified voice on these issues, but not with the bill we are considering today. I don't like the regime. Everyone knows I oppose the deal with Iran. I think if we work together, we can move forward on legislation; but not this way, not ramming it through the Rules Committee so it doesn't get to the Foreign Affairs Committee and it gets to the floor where nobody had any kind of input whatsoever. That is not how we should be running this house. So it is not with the bill we are considering today. My friends on the other side know that. This isn't a serious bill. It would force the United States to violate our obligations under the nuclear deal.

Now, I think that is a mistake. As I said before, I opposed the Iran nuclear deal, but I was on the losing side of that debate. We shouldn't relitigate this issue. We shouldn't have 62 votes again and again to try to upend this issue, like we do with the Affordable Care Act. We should not relitigate this issue. Our work now should be to hold Iran to its obligations and make sure the deal is being fully implemented.

One of the ways we could do this is to ensure there is a viable snapback of sanctions if Iran violates the deal. That is why I have been saying we should reauthorize the Iran Sanctions Act before it expires by the end of the year.

But here in front of us in this 80-page bill, what is missing?

A reauthorization of the Iran Sanctions Act. That shows me that this isn't a serious undertaking.

Regardless of what I think, we know that this bill has zero chance of becoming law. It most certainly won't pass the Senate. If it did, the White House would veto it. So we can only conclude, Mr. Speaker, that this is a political exercise, and that troubles me.

One of our greatest traditions in American foreign policy is that politics and partisanship stop at the water's edge. That principle has been especially true in the way Congress has dealt with Iran in recent years. That principle has guided our work on the Foreign Affairs Committee. Maybe

that is why the Foreign Affairs Committee was cut out of this process. We have avoided letting foreign policy turn to everyday politics. But make no mistake, what we are doing today is politics, plain and simple.

I worry about that precedent. I worry about what it means when Iran sees us playing politics with global security, when Iran's leaders see us engage in political grandstanding instead of serious policymaking. I also worry about what it means for the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Our committee's jurisdiction gives us oversight of diplomacy, development, foreign assistance, war powers. Yet, here we are debating a major, major sanctions bill that never passed through the doors of our committee room. Yesterday, the House voted on another Iran bill that completely bypassed our committee as well. The House just approved the Defense Authorization Act that includes dozens of provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Who knows how many foreign policy riders will find their way into our spending bills this year, all without the Foreign Affairs Committee saying a word.

This is a bad trend, Mr. Speaker. This is not regular order, which the Speaker promised us. By the way, I wonder what our friends in the Freedom Caucus and Liberty Caucus have to say about the process that got this bill to the floor. I wonder what happened to the Speaker's commitment to regular order that put the gavel in his hands in the first place. I didn't see a lot of concern over regular order as this bill was being rushed through the Rules Committee.

We have a legislative process that cut out the most experienced legislators on this issue. We have an important foreign policy concern turned into a political football. We have a bill that has no chance of becoming law. I am starting to think this has something to do with the calendar. Today, when we finish our business, Members will rush to the exits. But next week, many of my friends on the other side will descend on Cleveland for their convention.

Now, let me say a bit with tongue and cheek that I sympathize with my friends on the other side. Their standard-bearer has some pretty unusual ideas about foreign policy. He thinks more countries should get nuclear weapons. He wants to withdraw from our alliances. He thinks we ought to be neutral in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and start a trade war with China. He looks to people like Vladimir Putin, Kim Jong-un, and Saddam Hussein as apparent role models.

If I were in the majority's shoes, I would want to change the conversations, too. But this bill is the way to do it. This bill doesn't make the majority appear strong on foreign policy. It only makes Congress appear to be divided on

issues on which we cannot afford division. This bill weakens us as a Congress when Congress should be finding ways to make Americans safer.

I oppose this measure, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I always prefer to work things out with the ranking member. Working together, we put three bipartisan bills on the President's desk this last week alone. In this Congress, Mr. ENGEL and I, working together on the Foreign Affairs Committee, have seen some 14 bills signed into law. So he is right, this isn't the norm.

Earlier this year, there were intense discussions with the minority on legislation to push back on Iran's missile program. I compromised more than I wanted, inserting a waiver. We were close, but at the end of the day, it became clear that the White House would aggressively fight any legislation with the words "Iran" written on it.

For the White House, it is accommodation of Iran at all costs, and that includes essentially giving the Supreme Leader the veto pen over steps Congress might press the administration to take. So on this, we are stuck. Until the Democratic leadership is ready to look past this President's legacy, I imagine we will be stuck.

Lastly, I would note that these pieces of legislation are tightly focused on Iran's behavior outside of the nuclear agreement. That is the point. Whether one was for the agreement or against the agreement, these are outside of the nuclear agreement.

□ 1030

These bills do not undo or kill the Iran deal but, instead, press back on the administration's promises when campaigning for their deal.

This goes to the issue of what we were told, what was in the talking points on the floor of the House, in terms of how this deal would be implemented and that it would not impact our ability to stop this ballistic missile testing by Iran and these other abuses.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the majority leader.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, today marks the 1-year anniversary of the signing of the administration's Iran deal—1 year, and the world has already become a more troubled place.

I personally think the deal sets a dangerous precedent. It strengthens the largest state sponsor of terror in the world and gives that state sponsor of terror a pathway to nuclear weapons at some point in its future.

I think that all of the arguments to defend this deal can't stand against the great weight of reality, including the fact that Iran isn't holding up its side of the bargain and is more interested in embarrassing American military men

and women than in becoming a responsible nation.

I understand a few people disagree. However, there is something we have always agreed on from the start. Deal or no deal, good or bad deal, we have always agreed to hold Iran accountable for terrorism, for its development of ballistic missiles, and for its human rights abuses committed against its own people.

In April alone, President Obama said we have to "hold Iran to account where it is acting in ways that are contrary to rules and norms."

Secretary Kerry said last year, "We will never, ever stop standing up for the Iranian people's rights."

Treasury Secretary Jack Lew also said last year, "We are going to continue to prosecute our unilateral sanctions on things like terrorism, on things like regional destabilization and human rights."

What about today? Iran has conducted eight ballistic missile tests since the deal was signed. The State Department's own Stephen Mull said in May, "There have not been any sanctions imposed for human rights grounds since July of last year." Iran continues to imprison journalists—Americans—and to torture its people.

In February, the administration's Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper, said, "Iran continues to be the foremost state sponsor of terrorism. Iran and Hezbollah remain a continuing terrorist threat to U.S. interests and partners worldwide."

Those are the facts right there, Mr. Speaker.

What has the Obama administration done? How has the administration held Iran accountable, as they said they would? The administration has done nothing.

And it only gets worse. German intelligence has found that Iran is violating its pledges under this nuclear deal. Iran is procuring material for nuclear weapons in what is "by international standards, a quantitatively high level." Coupled with its missile program, the report reads, "It is safe to expect that Iran will continue its intensive procurement activity."

Wasn't this deal supposed to stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons? Where is the accountability? Where is the administration when they so clearly said they would hold them accountable? Where is the bipartisanship in the sanctions now?

Now, I understand on the other side, Mr. Speaker, some will accuse Republicans of engaging in a purely partisan exercise and never intending to work with our friends on the other side of the aisle.

Well, you know that is just not true. You know for the last 6 months we worked with the other side of the aisle, we worked in a bipartisan manner with the chairmen on both sides. But every time we would deal with the missiles and the ballistic sanctions against them, the White House would thwart any bipartisan effort.

So why are we here today? It is because, for 6 months, he found every reason to say "no." For 6 months, he went back on every word that was said about holding them accountable when the facts stood before us.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, I don't understand opposition to this bill. We are simply holding Iran accountable, which is exactly what the administration said they would do.

We have had tremendous leaders in this country, and we have learned the lessons time and again. Ronald Reagan taught us this lesson: that peace without freedom is meaningless. Human nature craves that we all have peace, but you cannot secure peace without freedom. We have watched in history when leaders have failed. Chamberlain, "peace for our time," but there was no freedom in that.

Ronald Reagan had this same dilemma late in his second term, in Iceland, when he stood across from Gorbachev, trying to negotiate a reduction in nuclear weapons. He was securing almost everything that he had asked for, but Gorbachev asked for one last item. He asked that America would end their SDI program. Reagan didn't say no. He said, we will share it with you so the world can be safe. But Gorbachev said no.

Reagan had a decision to make. He could have signed that deal, and I am sure the elite would have probably given him the Nobel Peace Prize. Other Presidents have won them. But he realized there was no freedom in that agreement. So he got up, he held the Soviet Union accountable, and he walked away.

Had he not, would the Berlin Wall have collapsed? Had he not, would the Soviet Union have collapsed?

Words have meaning, and words have consequences. The quotes from this administration and from around the world were to hold Iran accountable. That is what is happening today.

Mr. Speaker, there are going to be some Members in this Chamber who will sit back and say, "But it didn't happen just the way I wanted it to before it came to the floor."

I don't want you to look your grandchildren in the eyes and explain to them why we don't have freedom in the world. I want you to look your grandchildren in the eyes and say you stood up—you stood up for the words and what that meant when we were to hold Iran accountable.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), a very respected member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. CICILLINE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5631.

Nothing is more important to our national security interests in the Middle East than continuing to prevent a nuclear Iran while, at the same time, effectively containing Iran's influence

and confronting their destabilizing activities in the region.

Iran's ongoing ballistic missile program and its continued support for terrorism constitute an existential threat to our allies in the Middle East, including Israel. In its blatant disregard for human rights, we can hear the echoes of Nazi Germany, Soviet Russia, and other failed totalitarian regimes that now reside in the dustbin of history.

It is imperative that we do more to exert pressure on the Iranian regime to change its behavior, including meaningful sanctions for human rights and ballistic missile violations and terrorism. But any steps that we take cannot undermine the progress that we have already made over the past year to deny Iran a nuclear weapons program.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is working. Since its implementation, Iran has dismantled two-thirds of its installed uranium enrichment capacity, ended all uranium enrichment activity at its Fordow facility, and removed the core of the Arak heavy water reactor and rendered its only source of weapons-grade plutonium permanently useless.

Iran is now complying with the most comprehensive transparency and monitoring regime ever negotiated in the nuclear age. Israel's Chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Gadi Eizenkot, has called this agreement "a historic turning point. It is a big change in terms of the direction that Iran was headed and in the way we saw things."

There is no question that the world is safer today and that our allies in the Middle East, especially in Israel, are more secure because the JCPOA has denied Iran the opportunity to develop a nuclear weapon. We can and should continue to build on this work and confront the Iranian regime's behavior without undermining the JCPOA.

We should impose sanctions for ballistic missiles, for human rights violations, and for terrorism, but these sanctions must be carefully drawn, must be carefully written to protect the agreement that denies Iran a nuclear weapon.

The bill that we are voting on today does not do this. As a result, it won't make us safer. It will, in fact, undermine every single achievement we have made over the past year.

It will impose insurmountable limits on the President's ability to work with our allies around the world and to implement effective sanctions on Iranian human rights abusers, their ballistic missile program, and their support for terrorism. If this bill becomes law, it will immediately put Iran back on a path to develop a nuclear weapon.

I sit on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. I have attended dozens and dozens of hearings on Iran. I have heard hours and hours of testimony from expert witnesses on how we can effect change in Iran. But no one asked for our input on this bill. It was intro-

duced by the Republican leadership in the dead of night, entirely bypassing the Foreign Affairs Committee, and came straight to the floor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ENGEL. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. CICILLINE. Let's call this bill for what it is: a cynical proposal that is designed to score political points in an election year even at the expense of our national security interests.

Mr. Speaker, we need serious, thoughtful strategies to confront the Iranian regime, not partisan politics. The stakes are too high.

I urge my colleagues to protect this agreement that prevents Iran from having a nuclear weapon, to work with us in a bipartisan way, to impose sanctions that are carefully drawn with the full participation of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and to reject this bill in its current form.

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

I would just counter with some observations.

First, the nuclear deal does not dismantle key aspects of Iran's nuclear program. That, in fact, is its fatal flaw.

At its essence, this agreement traded permanent comprehensive sanctions relief for temporary, limited constraints on Iran's nuclear program. Under this deal, Iran will keep much of its nuclear infrastructure and continue to develop advanced centrifuges, gaining the ability to produce nuclear fuel on an industrial scale.

Due to the deal's fatal flaw—and that is the sunset clause—the ayatollah won't even have to cheat to be just steps away from a nuclear weapon. All he has to do is wait 10 or 15 years until the deal expires.

We cannot be sure that Iran is truly living up to its obligations under this agreement. I heard the assertion that it was. It is certainly not. In its annual report, published last month, the German intelligence reports:

The illegal proliferation-sensitive procurement activities by Iran in Germany, registered by the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, persisted in 2015 at what is, even by international standards, a quantitatively high level. This holds true in particular with regards to items which can be used in the field of nuclear technology.

If this deal is working, why is Iran secretly violating it? Why is Iran buying nuclear technology?

□ 1045

Now, the point is that these activities we are curtailing aren't related to the nuclear deal, and that is the other point I would make.

Unlike the administration, I am not willing to be able to be held hostage to the nuclear deal, doing nothing as Iran develops ICBMs in defiance of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

We realize what is happening here, I hope, is the ayatollah, on a weekly basis, leads these chants of "death to Israel," "death to America" and as-

serts that it is every military man's responsibility to figure out how to mass-produce intercontinental ballistic missiles. When he is talking about "intercontinental," that means between continents; that means between there and here.

"Death to America" is not a confusing thing that we might be misinterpreting. And it is worth noting that, in the last week, it surfaced that Iran continued trying to illegally procure nuclear equipment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE).

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this and the other two bills before the House this week regarding Iran, all of which would weaken our national security and our international standing, and all of which the President has rightly threatened to veto.

If there is a silver lining in this debate, it is that the majority has given us an opportunity to acknowledge the 1-year anniversary of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which has made the world safer by severely constraining Iran's nuclear activities and subjecting them to unprecedented international oversight.

Yet, instead of celebrating this landmark achievement, the majority is seeking to undo it. H.R. 5119, H.R. 4992, and H.R. 5631, collectively, would deny Iran even the limited access to foreign investment and other meaningful incentives that encourage compliance with the JCPOA.

These are just the latest in a series of Republican efforts to undermine this historic agreement negotiated with the world's major powers. Since the deal was finalized, Republicans have tried again and again and again to undermine not just the JCPOA, but also the credibility of the President of the United States on the international stage.

It appears the Iran nuclear agreement has become the ObamaCare of foreign policy. What I mean is that Republicans proclaim it a failure repeatedly, despite its objective success. They call for its immediate repeal without offering any viable alternatives, despite the potentially disastrous consequences of such action; and they continue to clutter the congressional calendar with so-called message votes about Iran, instead of addressing the major issues facing our Nation.

Now, these legislative antics continue even though opponents of the JCPOA know full well that strong sanctions on Iran remain in place targeting the country's human rights violations, ballistic missile development, and support of terrorism.

The bill before us, H.R. 5631, would impose additional mandatory sanctions on Iran for these same violations. There is no one in this Chamber about to let Iran off the hook for its egregious human rights violations or its

proliferation of terrorism and ballistic missile technology. And our Republican friends know full well that if a violation of the JCPOA were to occur, we can put sanctions like these in place immediately.

So why are we doing this bill now? Must we conclude that our colleagues are more interested in unravelling one of President Obama's signature accomplishments than they are with the facts of the matter?

Let's look at the facts: Because of this agreement, an Iranian nuclear weapon is not an imminent threat to the United States or our allies, including Israel. Because of this agreement, the breakout time for Iran to develop enough weapons-grade material for a nuclear weapon went from 2 or 3 months to a year or more. The international community has 24/7 access to Iran's nuclear sites, and we possess an enforcement mechanism to verify Iran's compliance.

By all objective accounts, Iran has upheld its end of the bargain, and it is vital that we uphold ours. This isn't just my opinion. This week a bipartisan group of more than 75 national security experts sent a letter to the President stating that "Iran has remained in compliance with its commitments" and "all pathways to an Iranian nuclear weapon have been blocked."

I include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD this letter in its entirety.

THE IRAN PROJECT,

New York, NY, July 12, 2016.

Letter to the President on the Anniversary of the Nuclear Agreement with Iran.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On the first anniversary of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran, Americans should be proud of your leadership in bringing about this landmark diplomatic agreement.

As a result of the JCPOA all pathways to an Iranian nuclear weapon have been blocked, thereby providing greater security to our friends and partners in the region and to the world. From November 2013, when the interim nuclear agreement was reached, until today, Iran has remained in compliance with its commitments as verified by regular reports of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

We applaud your Administration's commitment to the rigorous verification of Iran's compliance and remaining in close contact with the U.S. negotiating partners on the JCPOA implementation. This will be essential to ensure their cooperation should action be required to respond to an Iranian violation. As your policies have shown, it will also be essential for the U.S. to continue to assure Israel and the Gulf states of its resolute commitment to their security as our traditional partners in the region. It will be necessary to ensure adequate long-term funding for the IAEA so that it can carry out its inspection and reporting functions as required by the JCPOA.

Future relations with Iran can improve or get worse and become dangerous for U.S. interests in the region as Iran continues to support the Assad regime and Hezbollah. The U.S. should develop policies that increase the chances of cooperation with Iran, minimize confrontation, and influence Iran's actions in the region. We acknowledge that opportunities will be limited for testing Iran's

willingness to work directly with the U.S. due to the political uncertainties in both countries in the coming year, but engagement should be the U.S. government's long-term goal.

Your diplomatic undertaking with Iran was to seek a safer world and stem the proliferation of nuclear weapons. To achieve those ambitious goals you engaged in prolonged and intense diplomatic negotiations that enabled you to deal directly with Iran and to test its willingness to work with the U.S. and others in some areas of common purpose. The alternative strategy would be to return to an earlier era of treating Iran as America's principal enemy in the region, thereby: risking the unraveling of the JCPOA; drawing strong opposition from negotiating partners; returning to a period of nuclear danger; missing important opportunities for collaboration in the fight against ISIS and the search for solutions to other regional problems; and risking another armed conflict involving the U.S. in the Middle East.

We, therefore, encourage your Administration to put in place an institutional structure for conducting relations with Iran in all areas essential to U.S. interests. We suggest several channels that could be set up for your successor:

A direct diplomatic channel at the deputy level to continue the communications currently being conducted between the Secretary of State and Iranian Foreign Minister. Without such continuity during the transition period, the next Administration will lack the diplomatic means to enlist or pressure Iran in the management of important and urgent issues such as ISIS, Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan where the U.S. and Iran have some common but often clashing interests.

An emergency communications capability with Iran's government to avoid misunderstandings or the escalation of incidents or accidents.

A regular and direct bilateral channel between the U.S. Treasury and Iranian Central Bank to address all U.S. and Iranian questions about the implementation of sanctions relief commitments under the JCPOA. Treasury and State will need to stay in close harmony in talks with Iran on sanctions relief.

Iran's leaders appear reluctant now to engage the U.S. beyond the implementation of the JCPOA, and Iran's actions in the region may make engagement difficult for the U.S. But the one lesson learned from your diplomatic efforts with Iran is that persevering patiently in pursuit of careful diplomacy can lead to progress. A variety of channels with Iran will be needed to drive home messages and to improve mutual understanding on our positions on issues of importance to the U.S.—including regional security questions and the treatment of dual nationals—among others.

You have shown that well-conceived and tough-minded diplomacy can protect U.S. national security interests. Given the stakes, the U.S. will need more, not less, engagement with Iran.

With respect,

Amb. (ret.) Morton Abramowitz, Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research, Ambassador to Thailand and Turkey

Graham Allison, Assistant Secretary of Defense

Les AuCoin, U.S. Representative

Amb. (ret.) Barbara K. Bodine, Ambassador to Yemen

David Bonior, U.S. Representative

BGen Stephen A. Cheney (ret.), U.S. Marine Corps

Joseph Cirincione, President of the Ploughshares Fund

Amb. (ret.) James F. Collins, Ambassador at Large for the New Independent States and to the Russian Federation

Leon N. Cooper, Brown University, Nobel Laureate Physics

Amb. (ret.) Chester A. Crocker, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs

Amb. (ret.) James B. Cunningham, Ambassador to Israel, Afghanistan, and the United Nations

Tom Daschle, U.S. Senator, Senate Majority Leader

Suzanne DiMaggio, Director and Senior Fellow at New America

Amb. (ret.) James Dobbins, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan

Freeman Dyson, Professor of Physics Emeritus, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University

Major General Paul D. Eaton (ret.), U.S. Army, Managing Director Vet Voice Foundation

Robert Einhorn, Assistant Secretary for Nonproliferation, the Secretary of State's Special Advisor for Nonproliferation and Arms Control

Harold A. Feiveson (ret.), Senior Research Scientist, Princeton University

Richard L. Garwin, Chair of the Arms Control and Nonproliferation Advisory Board

F. Gregory Gause III, Chairman and Head of the International Affairs Department at the Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University

Leslie H. Gelb, Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs, Director of Policy Planning and Arms Control at the Department of Defense

Amb. (ret.) Marc Grossman, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, and Ambassador to Turkey

Morton H. Halperin, Director of Policy Planning Department of State, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Planning and Arms Control

Lee H. Hamilton, U.S. Representative, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee

Gary Hart, U.S. Senator, Special Envoy to Northern Ireland

Amb. (ret.) William C. Harrop, Ambassador to Israel, Inspector General of the State Department

Stephen B. Heintz, President, Rockefeller Brothers Fund

James Hoge, Former Editor of Foreign Affairs Magazine

Amb. (ret.) Robert Hunter, National Security Council Director of Middle East Affairs and Ambassador to NATO

Lt. Gen. (ret.) Arlen D. Jameson, U.S. Air Force, Deputy Commander U.S. Strategic Command

J. Bennett Johnston, U.S. Senator

Nancy Landon Kassebaum, U.S. Senator

LTG. Frank Kearney (ret.), U.S. Army, Deputy Director for Strategic Operational Planning at the National Counter-Terrorism Center

LTG. Claudia J. Kennedy (ret.), U.S. Army, Former Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence

Amb. (ret.) Daniel Kurtzer, Ambassador to Israel and Egypt

Ellen Laipson, Vice Chair of the National Intelligence Council, President Emeritus of Stimson Center

Carl Levin, U.S. Senator and Chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services

Mel Levine, U.S. Representative

Amb. (ret.) John Limbert, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Iran

Amb. (ret.) Winston Lord, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific Ambassador to China, Director of Policy Planning, Department of State

Amb. (ret.) William H. Luers, Ambassador to Czechoslovakia and Venezuela

Richard G. Lugar, U.S. Senator, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

Suzanne Maloney, Policy Planning Department of State, Deputy Director of the Foreign Policy Program at the Brookings Institution

Jessica T. Mathews, Director of the Office of Global Issues, National Security Council

Gen. (ret.) Merrill McPeak, U.S. Air Force, Chief of Staff

Amb. (ret.) William G. Miller, Ambassador to Ukraine

Amb. (ret.) Cameron Munter, Ambassador to Pakistan and Serbia

Amb. (ret.) Richard W. Murphy, Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs

Vali Nasr, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Dean of Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies

Richard Nephew, Director for Iran at the National Security Council, Deputy Coordinator for Sanctions Policy at the Department of State

Amb. (ret.) Ronald E. Neumann, Ambassador to Afghanistan, Algeria, and Bahrain

Gen. (ret.) Lloyd Fig Newton, U.S. Air Force, Commander, Air Education and Training Command

Joseph Nye, Assistant Secretary of Defense, Chairman of the National Intelligence Council

Admiral (ret.) Eric Olson, US. Navy, Commander of U.S. Special Operations Command

Amb. (ret.) Thomas Pickering, Permanent Representative to the United Nations; Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs; Ambassador to Israel, Russia, India, El Salvador, Nigeria and Jordan

Paul R. Pillar, National Intelligence Officer for the Near East and South Asia

Amb. (ret.) Nicholas Platt, Ambassador to Pakistan, Philippines, and Zambia

Joe R. Reeder, Deputy Secretary of the Army, Chairman of the Panama Canal Commission

Amb. (ret.) Francis J. Ricciardone, Ambassador to Egypt, Turkey, the Philippines, and Palau

Burton Richter, Professor Emeritus, Stanford University; Nobel Laureate in Physics

Barnett R. Rubin, Senior Adviser to the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan

Gary S. Samore, White House Coordinator for Arms Control and Weapons of Mass Destruction, Senior Director for Non-proliferation and Export Controls at the National Security Council

Gen. Brent Scowcroft (ret.), U.S. National Security Advisor

Patricia Schroeder, U.S. Representative

Gary Sick, Director of the Office of Iran and the Persian Gulf of the National Security Council

Jim Slattery, U.S. Representative

Mark Udall, U.S. Senator

Amb. (ret.) Bill vanden Heuvel, Ambassador to the European Office of the United Nations, Deputy U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations

Frank N. von Hippel, Assistant Director for National Security, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

Jane Wales, Special Assistant to the President, Senior Director of the National Se-

curity Council, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State

Amb. (ret.) Edward S. Walker, Jr., Ambassador to Israel, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates

James Walsh, Research Associate at Massachusetts Institute of Technology Security Studies Program

Frank Wilczek, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Nobel Laureate in Physics

Timothy E. Wirth, U.S. Senator

Amb. (ret.) Frank Wisner, Under Secretary of State for International Security Affairs; Ambassador to India, Egypt, the Philippines, and Zambia.

The signers of this statement are either former senior officials of the U.S. government or prominent national security leaders who have not held senior government positions. The positions listed after the names of the former government officials are the senior posts held while in government. The positions listed after the names of those who were not from the government are listed with their current position.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this agreement is too important and the stakes are too high to treat this issue as just another political football. The safety and security of the United States, of Israel, and of the region depend on the successful implementation and diligent enforcement of the JCPOA.

Instead of scoring political points, or seeking to deny the President a significant achievement, we should be working together in a bipartisan fashion to ensure the agreement's success.

We should be working together to explore ways to enhance coordination and cooperation with Israel and the international community to address unacceptable Iranian behavior, such as support for Hezbollah and abuse of human rights. Yet we find ourselves here, 1 year after the agreement's announcement, still dealing with ObamaCare-style gamesmanship.

It is beneath this institution. The world is watching. We may think a bill that has no chance of being signed into law doesn't matter; but to the leaders of China or Russia or Iran, it sends a signal from our country of hesitation and disunity.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill and any bills that come before us with similar intent and to focus, instead, on ensuring the success of the JCPOA and reinforcing the agreement's role in making the world a safer place.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN), a valued member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, it is a little insulting to hear the remarks that were just made, as if any objection not toeing the line of this President, having objections to this arrangement, is partisan politics.

The gentleman may have misspoken when he suggested that the Iran nuclear deal was signed. I would offer that the Iran nuclear deal actually hasn't been signed. The President has acknowledged not only is this not a treaty, but Secretary Kerry, when he was before the House Foreign Affairs

Committee, said it is not even an executive agreement. It is a political commitment, a signed letter from the State Department saying that this is an unsigned political commitment. Now, we are allowed to have objections to that.

I would suggest that the best interest of national security is to join in support of this bill and putting that over party politics.

I rise today in support of the Iran Accountability Act introduced by House Majority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY.

I also commend Chairman ED ROYCE for all of his incredibly valuable leadership, chairing the House Foreign Affairs Committee; and I also commend Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL, who I know is deeply passionate about U.S. security and the relationship with and accountability with Iran and strengthening our relationship with Israel. I know his heart is absolutely in the right place.

So it is not a difficult position for all the Democratic colleagues who voted against the Iran nuclear agreement. I know that that takes an incredible amount of courage to stand up to a President of your own party. You did it for all the right reasons, putting national security over party politics.

That wasn't partisanship. It was actually a bipartisan vote in this House to disapprove of that Iran nuclear deal. Democrats who decided to put American security first voted against the Iran nuclear deal, an unsigned political commitment.

Why were the Iranians at the table? Sanctions relief. It is not because we asked nicely, not because they want to be good world citizens. It is because they wanted the money.

Then we gave them the money. They got through their election.

By the way, those who say that the most moderate members were elected, that is discounting the fact that the 12,000 most moderate members weren't even allowed access to the ballot. There were only the hardliners left on the ballot.

So the Iranians get the money; they get past their elections; and here we are today. And you are insulting us in this Chamber by saying that any concern that we have, if it doesn't toe the President's party line, is partisan politics.

I don't care who the President is, whether it is Republican or Democrat, this one or the next one, the fact is what brought the Iranians to the table, the leverage, was the sanctions relief. And the sanctions relief that they received is now gone.

So as they test-fire intercontinental ballistic missiles in violation of international law, they unjustly imprison Americans as they commit their human rights abuses. Everything that they are doing today, we take exception with and we are acting on, and that's why I rise.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, everything that we come to this well on this day to vote in favor of this legislation and Chairman ROYCE's legislation, three pieces of legislation to hold the Iranians accountable, it is the fact that, if we want the Iranians to come back to the table, we need to put the leverage back on the table. They are not coming back if we ask nicely. They haven't changed who they are. They are not good world citizens.

I am not going to sit here and allow this script of a White House taxpayer-funded fiction writer, Ben Rhodes, going to the media to spread whatever false lies and narratives to help sell the Iran nuclear deal.

We are here to represent our constituents and the American public. This is not about a narrative of a President and his legacy. This is about American security and doing what is best and doing what is right for our constituents and the American public.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, this bill is more than deeply troubling. You talk about bipartisanship, and you come forth with a bill that completely breaks it down. This issue is too essential to become a total tool of partisan jockeying. Our relationship with Israel is too vital to become a total political plaything.

I refer, as my colleague from North Carolina did, to the statement of 75 national security leaders. I quote:

"Dear Mr. President,
"On the first anniversary of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran, Americans should be proud of your leadership in bringing about this landmark diplomatic agreement.

"As a result of the JCPOA all pathways to an Iranian nuclear weapon have been blocked, thereby providing greater security to our friends and partners in the region and to the world. From November 2013, when the interim nuclear agreement was reached, until today, Iran has remained in compliance with its commitments as verified by regular reports of the International Atomic Energy Agency."

This letter is signed by 75, including Brent Scowcroft.

Why don't you totally partisan Republicans, who are approaching a convention and a Presidential race, listen to very much-respected people within your own party? Instead, you are thumbing your nose like this at them and at all of those who endeavor to bring about an effective policy regarding nuclear weaponry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today is simply unmasked political chicanery.

This issue deserves better than the majority leader coming here without any notice, really, and putting forth a resolution that does nothing but harm what used to be a centerpiece of foreign policy: bipartisanship when it comes to the Middle East and the security of Israel.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

□ 1100

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5631 to hold Iran accountable for its state sponsorship of terrorism and for its human rights abuses.

As a Member of Congress, I believe one of our most important duties is to ensure that Americans continue to remain secure from other countries that wish to harm us.

Last year, President Obama entered into an agreement with Iran, which now allows Iran to advance their nuclear energy program. In turn, the President has allowed sanctions against Iran to be removed even though entities of the Iranian Government continue to conduct human rights violations. In addition, Iran continues to refine their ballistic missile program and support terrorism, which represents a serious threat to the United States and our allies.

It should be the clear intent of this body that the continued use of economic sanctions against the country of Iran is necessary to ensure Iran does not have the resources necessary to harm or even eliminate our country or its allies. H.R. 5631 does this. It ensures that the policy of this country is to continue to take aggressive action against Iran to prevent the development of weapons that could harm our country or our allies.

We must also continue to ensure that it is the policy of this country that efforts be taken to prevent human rights violations by any country.

I would like to thank my colleague, Majority Leader MCCARTHY, for bringing this bill to the floor, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time remains on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 13½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from New York has 12 minutes remaining.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH), a very hardworking and respected member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. DEUTCH. I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this week we approach the 1-year anniversary of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the JCPOA, the agreement negotiated by

the P5+1 countries over Iran's illicit pursuit of nuclear weapons. One year later, Iran remains far outside the community of responsible countries. Iran continues to sponsor terrorism around the region. It funds and supports the murderous Assad regime. It spouts anti-Semitic and anti-Israel vitriol. It foments unrest in other countries. It denies basic human rights to its citizens, and it unlawfully detains American citizens. Iran has still not returned my constituent, Robert Levinson, who went missing in Iran in 2007 and is now the longest-held American hostage.

My friends on the other side of the aisle know that, and I commend Chairman ROYCE for his diligence in looking for ways to strengthen our sanctions regime and to vigilantly enforce the Iran nuclear deal in order to keep the pressure on Iran.

Iran's subversive actions have not relented despite the agreement. Iran has explicitly and repeatedly violated U.N. Security Council resolutions by testing its ballistic missile technology, weapons capable of delivering nuclear warheads. In addition, recent intelligence reports from Germany expose that Iran sought technology related to the development of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. So there is a lot that needs to be done to keep the pressure on Iran.

For all of these reasons, Congress needs to reauthorize the Iran Sanctions Act, the law that actually serves as the foundation for our sanctions policy. We have to pass new sanctions to address Iran's repeated ballistic missile tests, and we have to crack down on Iran's financial support for terrorism. These are items that have always enjoyed broad bipartisan support. All of the areas that Iran is doing harm throughout the region—support for terrorism, violation of the human rights of their people, ballistic missile tests—everything that falls outside of the nuclear deal, we should be working together to strengthen with this bipartisan support.

But rushing through legislation that is designed to undermine the JCPOA and put the United States in violation of our commitments under the JCPOA not only fail to punish Iran's malfeasance—which is our goal, and it is the shared goal—but it weakens America's ability to lead a global effort against Iran's destabilizing efforts throughout the world. We can't do this on our own. We need to work with our allies. We need to lead our allies. That is the role that the United States has always played.

Mr. Speaker, I did not support the Iran nuclear agreement, but it is in effect, and it must be enforced with vigilance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CURBELO of Florida). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. DEUTCH. I thank my friend.

Mr. Speaker, we have to maintain immense pressure on the Iranian regime so long as it violates human rights, supports terrorism, and tests ballistic missiles; but failure by the United States to uphold the deal will only weaken—I repeat for my colleagues who share my commitment to standing up to Iran, it will only weaken—our efforts to lead the international community in taking strong action to counter Iran's actions both under and outside of the JCPOA.

These three bills this week that have been rushed to the floor without having the opportunity to discuss them, to debate them, and to develop broad bipartisan support on them in ways that will not jeopardize our role under the JCPOA weaken our ability to lead. That is why I oppose them, and that is why I urge my colleagues to oppose them as well.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), our Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I rise to oppose this bill. I have historically and repeatedly worked in a bipartisan fashion to bring bills to this floor that were supported by both parties as it relates to the security of Israel.

This bill comes to the floor as we take stock of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the Iran nuclear deal. This bill, disappointingly, was written without any input from Democrats or any committee or through regular order. By not acting in a bipartisan manner, we are missing the opportunity to send an important message to Iran of our steadfast resolve in holding it accountable both to their commitments under the JCPOA and under applicable U.S. laws and U.N. resolutions.

We need to remember that it was toughness born from bipartisan unity that brought Iran to the table in the first place. That, again, is what will be required to ensure its full compliance. As much as Iran has mostly complied with the letter of the deal, it has pushed the limits when it comes to its spirit.

One of my major concerns about the deal from a year ago remains, and it is that the deal is limited in scope only to Iran's nuclear activities. It does not cover the other areas in which Iran has proven to be a dangerous and threatening actor.

Mr. Speaker, U.N. Security Council Resolution 2231, which implemented the JCPOA, called for Iran to halt its ballistic missile program. Instead, Iran has continued to develop and test missiles that could carry a nuclear payload. There have also been reports that it is attempting to acquire ballistic missile technology in violation of U.N. Resolution 2231.

Iran's sponsorship of global terror has continued unabated, and its arms

and fighters stream into Syria, exacerbating the instability there and threatening regional security. Hamas and Hezbollah continue to threaten Israel with Iranian arms and financial support, and Iran's leaders continue to call for the end of the Jewish State of Israel.

That is why, even as Iran has received sanctions relief through the JCPOA, it was always understood that we would need and be able to increase pressure on Iran with additional sanctions targeting its ballistic missile program and other destabilizing actions. We must not allow Iran to violate the nuclear deal.

If Iran does not feel that it is sufficiently benefiting from the nuclear deal, frankly, that is because its malign activities and its outdated banking system are continuing to deter foreign investment.

Iran and the world need to understand that it is not America's job to fix the problems that Iran has created for itself. That is why, as Iran continues to flaunt its obligations and sponsor terrorism around the world, its leaders must know with certainty that there will be real consequences from the United States and our allies for those actions.

I am opposing this bill and urging that Democrats and Republicans—and my friend, Mr. ROYCE, has done that repeatedly throughout his leadership of the Committee on Foreign Affairs—return to our successful bipartisan partnership, as we have in the past, to reauthorize the Iran Sanctions Act as soon as possible, and then work toward enacting sanctions targeting Iran's ballistic missile program.

Let's come back here with legislation that sends a powerful message to Iran that there is no daylight between the parties in Congress when it comes to our shared resolve that Iran must abandon its sponsorship of terror, end its ballistic missile program, and comply fully with the JCPOA. My friends, Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, and my colleagues, our commitment to Israel and international peace and security demands no less.

Let us return to bipartisanship on which Israel has relied and the message that we sent was stronger, firmer, and more effective. Let us defeat this partisan legislation and return to the bipartisan table.

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

The goal of the Iran Accountability Act, the goal of this measure we are talking about today is not to force the administration to violate its flawed Iran deal. The goal here, the goal of this bill is to call upon the President to uphold his pledge to remain vigilant and respond to Iran's continued support for its ballistic missile program and terrorism and its human rights abuses. Okay?

The sanctions in this bill would force the administration to act decisively with respect to the twin threats of

Iran's effort to develop and acquire ballistic missiles and to support terrorism. It would seek to bolster the effect of secondary sanctions that apply outside the United States on Iran's development of ballistic missiles in the wake of the administration's wholesale retreat from multilateral sanctions regarding ballistic missiles.

If the administration was actually involved in enforcing this, this legislation would not be necessary. Last July, Secretary of State John Kerry testified that the U.N. Security Council Resolution 2231, which implemented the deal, contains the exact same language prohibiting Iran from developing ballistic weapons as the previous resolution. That sounded pretty encouraging to us. Oh, if only it were true. If only it had been true.

The text of the resolution appears to suggest it is quite the opposite. In U.N. SCR 2231, Iran is nonbindingly called upon—those are the words, “called upon”—to refrain from developing ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear warheads. By contrast, the original resolution bindingly stated that Iran shall not—shall not—develop ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear warheads.

Now, here is where we have to focus, my friends. Here is where we have to focus. This past spring, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Zarif bragged on this very point, and here are his words. He said that he negotiated a loophole. He negotiated a loophole that would enable the regime to continue to develop nuclear-capable ballistic missiles. That is why we are here debating this today.

What did he say?

The new resolution, he claimed—and these are his words—doesn't call upon Iran not to test ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear warheads. No. It calls upon Iran not to test ballistic missiles that were designed to be capable.

And he adds: “That word took me about 7 months to negotiate, so everybody knew what it meant.”

As such, Iran could develop a ballistic missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead but then claim it was not designed for that specific purpose.

□ 1115

Later reports indicated that the United States and its European allies issued a joint letter. Now, remember, Iran has now fired off eight tests. The last test, on the ballistic weapons, on the side of them, it said “Death to Israel” in Farsi and in Hebrew. And that joint letter stated that Iran's recent ballistic missile tests were—what was the word used by the United States now?—were inconsistent with, rather than a violation of, the resolution. So which is it?

Ultimately, the U.N. fails to impose new sanctions despite Iran's continued missile tests. During this entire debate on the floor this House, the talking points indicated that Iran would be

prevented from developing and using and testing these ballistic missiles for the next 8 years. Now we find out that, apparently, the administration intends to allow this continued buildup of their capabilities of an intercontinental ballistic missile.

Thus, what this legislation seeks to restore is the necessary deterrent effect with respect to ballistic missiles and correct the administration's debilitating mistakes.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), a very respected and hardworking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

I rise in opposition to H.R. 5631, the so-called Iran Accountability Act.

The majority has decided, on its own, without any bipartisanship, to co-opt traditional action on a bipartisan basis to counter Iran by fast-tracking sharply partisan legislation that would undermine not only the Iran nuclear agreement but fracture the very delicate international coalition that allowed us to reverse the nuclear development in Iran. I guess that is something that happens when amateurs write a bill without any foreign policy background.

This bill was drafted, as Mr. HOYER indicated, with no input from the minority and was brought to the floor under a closed rule. How can anyone, much less our adversary Iran, take this seriously?

If the majority really cared about countering Iran, it would safeguard longstanding bipartisan consensus and bring to the floor a clean reauthorization of the Iran Sanctions Act, which I would support and I am sure most people on my side of the aisle.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Instead, the majority is scrambling to pass at the last hour of this part of our session, just before a 7-week recess, the bill before us today.

It is a farce. It is a dangerous gambit by the majority to play election-year politics at the expense of U.S. bipartisan foreign policy.

I urge rejection of this ill-considered bill.

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

You know, the question is not whether Iran is a good player. Iran is not a good player. The question is: What should be our response to it? It is not a question of whether the Iranian regime is good or bad. Of course it is bad. I opposed the Iran deal. The question is: How do we react to it?

Mr. Speaker, we had an opportunity to work on meaningful legislation that would have held Iran's feet to the fire

and ensured the nuclear deal was being fully, fairly implemented. It could have been a reauthorization of the Iran Sanctions Act. It could have been another bipartisan approach.

But, instead, we are going to vote on this bill, which will pass mostly on partisan lines, and then skip town for 7 weeks. I think that is a shame, because I don't think we have done our job. And there is no job more important than protecting America's security.

Ramming through partisan bills that don't stand a chance of becoming law is just irresponsible. It diminishes Congress' role in making foreign policy. It certainly diminishes the Foreign Affairs Committee's role.

So I hope when we return from the break we can hit the reset button on the way we deal with these issues. I think it is important for us to work together in a bipartisan fashion. As I have said so many times on this floor, it has been a pleasure working with Chairman ROYCE on the committee in a bipartisan fashion.

Give the committee a chance to formulate a bill that will hold Iran's feet to the fire. It is a terrible regime. It is a bloody regime. We are all united on both sides of the aisle in wanting to confront that regime. The question is how to do it. You don't do it by ramming through a partisan bill. You do it by working in a bipartisan fashion.

For now, we should reject this bill, go back to the drawing board, and work together to confront the Iranian murderous regime. They are a regime that we need to confront. Nobody disagrees on that on both sides of the aisle. The question is: Should we do it together?

Let's do it together. The Foreign Affairs Committee has been a bipartisan mecca of how Congress should work. Let's go back to that, particularly with foreign policy. Let's go back to that.

So I urge my colleagues to reject the bill. We have good people on both sides of the aisle. We all want to see the same thing. Let's put our heads together and come up with a consensus and confront Iran. Reject the bill.

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

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

The first point I would make, Mr. Speaker, is that, under the agreement, Iran has kept much of its nuclear infrastructure. It continues to develop advanced centrifuges. It continues to gain the ability to produce nuclear fuel on an industrial scale.

This means, if we are looking at the long haul on enforcement and challenges ahead, that the ayatollah won't even have to cheat to be just steps away from a nuclear weapon when the clock runs out.

In the meantime, tens of billions of dollars in sanctions relief is now starting to flow to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Now, the assurances that we have been given—and these underlying con-

cerns, by the way, are why so many Members, including many from the Foreign Affairs Committee, opposed the administration's deal with Iran in the first place.

But these long-term problems now of Iran beginning to use that money for terrorist activity, for the IRGC, and for support for Hezbollah is what is prompting our effort now to try to get some kind of an enforcement, not necessarily on the deal itself, but on original assurances we had been given by the President.

For example, when he presented this deal, he claimed that the United States would remain vigilant in countering Iran's sponsorship of terrorism, its support for proxies who destabilize the Middle East, its threats against America's friends and allies, like Israel.

Some of us supported the nuclear deal with Iran; some of us didn't. But, regardless, I don't think any of us thought that Iran should be given carte blanche to continue and even escalate its dangerous hostility in that region and its hostility to us and our allies and hostility to the Iranian people, frankly, which is another issue. That is not what the administration told us last year.

It makes sense to do all we can to check this very dangerous trend in Iranian activity. The problem is that the administration refuses to do this. This is what drives us to bring the bill to the floor. The administration refuses to negotiate, as I said before, on anything with the word "Iran" in it. So that is why we are here.

I would ask my colleagues who oppose this measure: We were told, all right, we are going to hold them on human rights. How many Iranian officials has the administration designated for human rights abuses since the negotiations ended? The answer to that is zero. There have been no human rights designations in the past year. Talk about walking on eggshells.

Despite the fact that Iran's Minister of Justice and head of the judiciary—they are clear human rights violators, but they have not been designated, as the number of executions inside Iran go up.

Iranian regional aggression has increased exponentially since this agreement was reached. The administration has been reluctant to act decisively on that.

In March, the CENTCOM Commander, General Joe Votel, testified that Iran has become more aggressive in the days since the agreement.

Similarly, our Director of National Intelligence says Iran—in his words, the foremost state sponsor of terrorism—continues to exert its influence in regional crises in the Middle East through the International Revolutionary Guard Corps, through the Quds Force, its terrorist partner Lebanese Hezbollah, and its proxy groups. It also provides military and economic aid to its allies in the region. Iran and

Hezbollah remain a continuing terrorist threat to U.S. interests and partnerships worldwide.

Now, if the IRGC ends up with \$100 billion—because it is the International Revolutionary Guard Corps that, in fact, nationalized most of the companies inside Iran. If they get their hands on this money and if this terrorist-sponsoring organization continues its proliferation, then Hezbollah is going to be the primary beneficiary of the sanctions relief.

We were assured that steps were going to be taken on that point. That was supposed to be our end goal, right?

Secretary Kerry even admitted immediately after the implementation day, “I think that some of it will end up in the hands of the IRGC or other entities, some of which are labeled ‘terrorists.’ You know, to some degree, I am not going to sit here and tell you that every component of that can be prevented.”

Okay, it can’t all be prevented, but surely some of it can. The Secretary of State was basically saying that there was nothing the U.S. could do to prevent the IRGC and terrorists from benefiting exponentially from sanctions relief. No wonder Iran’s efforts to destabilize the region are picking up steam.

Consider Iran’s smuggling of weapons to militants throughout the region. According to the State Department, Iran arms Hezbollah with advanced, long-range Iranian manufactured missiles, in violation of the U.N. Security Council resolution. We are trying to do something to at least say: Stop that.

Just days after the announcement of the JCPOA, here is what Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah asserted that that deal would not stand in the way of Iranian support for Hezbollah.

How right he was, because in June 2016 Nasrallah boasted that all of Hezbollah’s weapons and rockets came from the Islamic Republic of Iran—150,000 rockets pointed at our ally, Israel. And now they say they are going to be able to target those with GPS technology. Aren’t we going to stand in the way of that?

Similarly, Iran continues to destabilize our partners in the Gulf. They already overthrew the Government in Yemen with their support for the Shiite Houthis there; particularly, also, in Bahrain, where they carry out a low-level insurgency as well.

I beg to differ with the Secretary of State. There is something we can do. We can act on the administration’s stated commitment to our allies and hold Iran’s feet to the fire on this issue.

The Iran deal should not come at the cost of the domestic security of our regional allies. We could have the original deal, and we could still enforce what we were told on this floor would be enforced.

For 8 years, they were not supposed to be proliferating or developing ballistic missiles. For 5 years, they were

not supposed to be transferring to Hezbollah additional weapons capability.

Now we are turning a blind eye. Now we are walking on eggshells with respect to their treatment of their own people, as the human rights violations and the executions become worse and as they hold two more Americans.

Frankly, that is why this legislation is before us on the House floor. I urge an “aye” vote.

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

□ 1130

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 819, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

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

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

Mr. ROYCE. 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 question will be postponed.

UNITED STATES FINANCIAL SYSTEM PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 819, I call up the bill (H.R. 4992) to codify regulations relating to transfers of funds involving Iran, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). Pursuant to House Resolution 819, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4992

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “United States Financial System Protection Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS, SENSE OF CONGRESS, AND STATEMENT OF POLICY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) On November 8, 2011, the Department of the Treasury identified the Islamic Republic of Iran as a jurisdiction of primary money laundering concern pursuant to section 5318A of title 31, United States Code, including Iran’s Central Bank, private Iranian banks, branches, and subsidiaries of Iranian banks operating outside of Iran as posing illicit finance risks for the global financial system.

(2) On November 6, 2008, the Department of the Treasury announced that it was revoking the “U-turn” license for Iran, stating that “as a member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the United States today fulfilled its obligation to strengthen measures

to protect the financial sector from the risks posed to the international financial system by Iran”.

(3) On February 19, 2016, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global standard setting body for anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism which has determined that Iran is a “non-cooperating country or territory” in the fight against money laundering and terror financing since 2008, stated that, “the FATF remains particularly and exceptionally concerned about Iran’s failure to address the risk of terrorist financing and the serious threat this poses to the integrity of the international financial system”.

(4) United States and foreign businesses operating or seeking to operate in Iran run significant risks, as corruption in Iran is endemic, with Transparency International ranking Iran 130 out of 168 countries.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the entire financial sector of Iran, including Iran’s Central Bank, private Iranian banks and branches, and subsidiaries of Iranian banks operating outside of Iran, poses illicit finance risks for the global financial system due to its proliferation, support for terrorism, and other illicit conduct.

(c) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy of the United States to—

(1) deny Iran access to funds denominated in United States dollars, including through any offshore United States dollar clearing system for transactions involving the Government of Iran or an Iranian person; and

(2) deny Iran access to United States dollars through any offshore United States dollar clearing system conducted or overseen by a foreign government or a foreign financial institution for transactions involving the Government of Iran or an Iranian person.

SEC. 3. CODIFICATION OF REGULATIONS RELATING TO TRANSFERS OF FUNDS INVOLVING IRAN; CLARIFICATION OF APPLICATION OF REGULATIONS TO FOREIGN DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS AND FOREIGN REGISTERED BROKERS AND DEALERS.

(a) CODIFICATION OF REGULATIONS.—Section 560.516 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2016, shall apply with respect to transfers of funds to or from Iran, or for the direct or indirect benefit of an Iranian person or the Government of Iran, for the period beginning on or after January 1, 2016, and ending on the date on which the President makes the certification to the appropriate congressional committees under section 401(a) of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8551(a)).

(b) CLARIFICATION OF APPLICATION OF REGULATIONS TO FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND FOREIGN REGISTERED BROKERS AND DEALERS.—

(1) FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—Subsection (a) of section 560.516 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2016, shall apply with respect to foreign financial institutions to the same extent and in the same manner as such subsection applies with respect to United States depository institutions if the funds that are to be transferred as described in such subsection are funds that are denominated in United States dollars.

(2) FOREIGN REGISTERED BROKERS AND DEALERS.—Subsection (b) of section 560.516 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2016, shall apply with respect to foreign registered brokers or dealers in securities to the same extent and in the same manner as such subsection applies with respect to United States registered brokers or dealers in securities if the funds that are to be transferred as described in such subsection are funds that are denominated in United States dollars.

(3) **SUSPENSION.**—The President may suspend the application of paragraph (1) with respect to a foreign financial institution or the application of paragraph (2) with respect to a foreign registered broker or dealer in securities for a period not to exceed 60 days, and the President may renew the suspension of the application of paragraph (1) or paragraph (2), respectively, for additional periods of not more than 60 days, on and after the date on which the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that during the preceding 60-day period the Government of Iran is in compliance with the criteria described in section 401(a)(1) of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8551(a)(1)).

(c) **LICENSING RESTRICTIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the President may not issue any license under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) or provide other guidance, including executive actions, rules, regulations, frequently asked questions, written communications, or any other commitments, that permits—

(A) a United States depository institution or United States registered broker or dealer in securities—

(i) to conduct an offshore United States dollar clearing system for transactions involving or for the benefit of the Government of Iran or an Iranian person, including to process transfers of funds to or from Iran under section 560.516 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2016; or

(ii) to provide United States dollars for any offshore United States dollar clearing system conducted or overseen by a foreign government or a foreign financial institution for transactions involving or for the benefit of the Government of Iran or an Iranian person, including to process transfers of funds to or from Iran under section 560.516 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2016; or

(B) a foreign financial institution or foreign registered broker or dealer in securities—

(i) to conduct an offshore United States dollar clearing system for transactions involving or for the benefit of the Government of Iran or an Iranian person, including to process transfers of funds to or from Iran under section 560.516 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2016, and as applied under subsection (b); or

(ii) to provide United States dollars for any offshore United States dollar clearing system conducted or overseen by a foreign government or a foreign financial institution for transactions involving or for the benefit of the Government of Iran or an Iranian person, including to process transfers of funds to or from Iran under section 560.516 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2016, and as applied under subsection (b).

(2) **EXCEPTION FOR HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES.**—The President may, on a case-by-case basis, issue a license described in paragraph (1) to authorize the activities described in clause (i) or (ii) of paragraph (1)(A) or the activities described in clause (i) or (ii) of paragraph (1)(B) if—

(A) such activities relate solely to—

(i) the provision of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, or medical devices to Iran; or

(ii) the provision of humanitarian assistance to the people of Iran; and

(B) the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees a copy of the license.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(2) **FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.**—The term “foreign financial institution” has the meaning given such term in section 1010.605 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2016.

(3) **IRAN.**—The term “Iran” has the meaning given the term in section 561.329 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2016.

(4) **IRANIAN PERSON.**—The term “Iranian person” means a person or entity (as such terms are defined in section 560.305 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2016) that—

(A) is organized under the laws of Iran or any jurisdiction within Iran (including foreign branches); or

(B) is a person in Iran.

(5) **TRANSFER OF FUNDS.**—The term “transfer of funds”—

(A) has the meaning given the term “funds transfer” in section 1010.100 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2016; and

(B) includes a transfer of funds or other property for the benefit of an Iranian financial institution that is made between accounts of the same financial institution even if that Iranian financial institution is not the direct recipient of the transfer.

(6) **UNITED STATES DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.**—The term “United States depository institution” has the meaning given such term in section 560.319 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2016.

(7) **UNITED STATES REGISTERED BROKER OR DEALER IN SECURITIES.**—The term “United States registered broker or dealers in securities” has the meaning given such term in section 560.321 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2016.

SEC. 4. CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR REMOVAL OF DESIGNATION OF IRAN AS A JURISDICTION OF PRIMARY MONEY LAUNDERING CONCERN.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President may not rescind a preliminary draft rule or final rule (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act) that provides for the designation of Iran as a jurisdiction of primary money laundering concern pursuant to section 5318A of title 31, United States Code, unless the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees a certification described in subsection (b) with respect to Iran.

(b) **CERTIFICATION.**—The President may rescind a preliminary draft rule or final rule described in subsection (a) if the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees a certification that the Government of Iran is no longer engaged in support for terrorism, pursuit of weapons of mass destruction, and any illicit and deceptive financial activities.

(c) **FORM.**—The certification described in subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(d) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4992.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 4992. This bill would prohibit trade with Iran in dollars, and that is the world's top currency. The Iranian access to the U.S. financial system here is what is at risk.

When selling this Iran deal to Congress, Treasury Secretary Lew testified unequivocally that—and I am going to quote him; I am going to quote our Treasury Secretary—“Iranian banks will not be able to clear U.S. dollars through New York, hold correspondent account relationships with U.S. financial institutions, or enter into financing arrangements with U.S. banks.”

He testified: “Iran, in other words, will continue to be denied access to the world's largest financial and commercial market.”

The Secretary strongly denied the administration was giving away the store to Iran. We were told that the restrictions on Iran's access to the U.S. dollar were key to pushing back on Iran's terrorism and on its missile proliferation.

But for the past 6 months, as the Iranian Supreme Leader has ratcheted up complaints about the pace of sanctions relief, the Obama administration has shifted to “making sure Iran gets relief.” That is the theme.

Indeed, the State Department has taken its advocacy for Iran to a new and disturbing level by trying to persuade major non-U.S. banks that doing Iran-related business is not only permitted, but is actually encouraged.

As one witness told the committee in May, the United States is acting as the “business development and trade promotion authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran.” And the administration is looking for ways for Iran to be able to conduct business in dollars.

When challenged before the House Financial Services Committee in March, Secretary Lew would not answer authoritatively whether the United States may offer Iran the ability to access onshore or offshore dollar-clearing, to allow for dollar-denominated transactions and ease Iran's ability to trade internationally.

The ayatollah wants this form of sanctions relief—to essentially declare that Iran is open for business—without ending its support for terrorism and ending its proliferation of missiles.

Mr. Speaker, the United States should not be offering additional special exemptions to assist Iran with access to dollars while Iran remains a leading state sponsor of terror, subject to serious sanctions.

Notably, the Treasury Department's designation of Iran as a primary money laundering concern remains, and that is a recognition that any financial transaction with Iran risks supporting the regime's ongoing illicit activities. That is part of the reason that the Financial Action Task Force, which sets the global anti-money laundering standards, has warned of, in their words, "the terrorist financing risk emanating from Iran and the threat this poses to the international financial system."

Instead of granting such a significant unilateral concession of Iranian access to dollarized transactions, this legislation requires a reciprocal step by Tehran. Iran must stop its support for terrorism, one of the top concerns that administration officials promised that they were going to address using its remaining sanctions after the nuclear agreement. This is an approach that all Members should support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this week Republicans have made it a top priority to bypass regular order and rush a number of measures to the floor as part of their reckless and politically driven Iran week agenda that would put the United States in breach of our commitments under the Iran nuclear deal.

Concluded a year ago, the Iran nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or the JCPOA, will prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear bomb for the foreseeable future. The agreement imposed tough restrictions on and heavy monitoring of Iran's nuclear program in exchange for nuclear-related sanctions relief. To date, Iran has upheld its end of the deal, and I believe we have a responsibility to uphold our commitments as well.

The bill before us today, H.R. 4992, is just one of the measures under consideration this week that is aimed squarely at prohibiting Iran from experiencing the sanctions relief promised under the agreement that is the JCPOA.

As part of the Iran nuclear deal, the U.S. committed to lift secondary sanctions to allow Iran to conduct banking transactions outside of the United States in return for Iran meeting its nuclear-related commitments, which was verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

H.R. 4992, this bill, would put the United States in direct violation of the JCPOA by reapplying these secondary sanctions that had been lifted as part of the agreement. Moreover, the bill would undermine the good faith commitment made by all parties under the

JCPOA to uphold the letter, the spirit, and intent of the agreement, and to refrain from action that would undermine its successful implementation. By denying the relief we committed to provide under the deal, we throw the continued viability of the JCPOA into question, thereby abandoning the best chance we have at preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

In addition to violating our commitments under the JCPOA, this bill does nothing to provide additional protection for the United States financial system. The bill's proponents ignore the fact that our primary embargo on Iran remains in effect and that the administration is already taking robust measures to protect the United States financial system from access by Iran.

To the extent this bill is motivated by rumors that the administration is preparing to grant Iran new access to the U.S. financial system beyond the scope of JCPOA, I would point out that the administration has said that these rumors are entirely unfounded. The administration has also made clear that it has no intention of reinstating the U-turn authorization, which permits foreign firms to use the U.S. as a pass-through for facilitating transactions with Iran, or give Iran access to the United States financial system.

The President has officially stated that he will veto this bill and any other legislation that prevents the successful implementation of the Iran nuclear deal.

We must ask ourselves, if we undermine this deal that we made, what comes next, more sanctions?

It is important to remember that the harsh nuclear-related sanctions that were previously in place did not prevent Iran from continuing to pursue a nuclear capability. A United States-led attack on Iran—I sincerely hope that we would work diligently to avoid this option.

Lastly, I am opposed to this bill being brought directly to the floor without going through regular order. We did not hold a hearing. We did not hold a markup in the Financial Services Committee on this legislation, denying Members the opportunity to fully consider its implications.

We cannot renege on our commitment to uphold the JCPOA, a significant effort to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear bomb. Violating the agreement would not only undermine U.S. national security, but also our ability to lead on any international negotiations aimed at peace in the future. So I would urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 4992.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA), chairman of the Financial Services Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4992. I appreciate my good friend,

Chairman ROYCE, of the Foreign Affairs Committee. We also serve on this Financial Services Committee.

It was my subcommittee that granted the partial waiver to allow this legislation to come directly to the floor; and because I think that this is so important, that is why it is here on the floor today.

Under the Obama administration's flawed nuclear deal, the JCPOA, or Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, Iran has received significant sanctions relief so far. Because of this dangerous deal, the Obama administration left the door wide open for Iran's Supreme Leader to demand access to the dollar.

This is the same country that the State Department dubbed "the world's foremost state sponsor of terrorism."

This is the same country that the Treasury Department has labeled "a jurisdiction of primary money laundering concern" thanks to its support for terrorism and the use of its banks to facilitate nuclear and ballistic missile initiatives.

Last summer, Treasury Secretary Lew testified that "Iranian banks will not be able to clear U.S. dollars through New York, hold correspondent account relationships with U.S. financial institutions, or enter into financing arrangements with U.S. banks." I agree. They should not. I am thrilled to hear Secretary Lew make that statement.

He also then made it perfectly clear with another quote. "Iran, in other words, will continue to be denied access to the world's largest financial and commercial market." Yet we just hear that this is a breach of the JCPOA as has just been asserted. If so, then Secretary Lew's own words would indicate a breach before it was even enacted and before it began.

So which is it? They either really don't want to codify this because they plan on trying to offer this or allow Iran to do it, or, for some other strange reason, they think that these words alone cover it. Well, they don't because it is not legally binding.

In fact, the President, the POTUS, the President of the United States, himself, has said that Iran has violated the spirit of the agreement already.

Just last week, we had testimony in my subcommittee, where we were doing a hearing, that Germany, in Germany, the German intelligence services—Angela Merkel talked about this in the Bundestag—that they have indications that Iran has continued to pursue nuclear capabilities in Germany itself.

So it is a very simple, yet a very important, piece of legislation that would codify the existing Treasury regulations that prohibit U.S. depository institutions and registered security brokers or dealers from processing funds to or from Iran as well as to prohibit any foreign financial institutions from transferring any funds that are in U.S. dollars.

□ 1145

It has been also stated—I would say ludicrously—that somehow this bill and others like it are unpatriotic. I think it is the exact opposite, Mr. Speaker. This bill is necessary to make sure that the financial standing of the U.S. institutions are protected. I think it is important that we assert ourselves to make sure that this administration doesn't go beyond the bounds that it already has, and it is time to put partisan persuasions aside, work together, and stop doing business with our enemies.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important bill.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, one year ago, America chose to preclude an Iranian nuclear weapons program through diplomacy rather than war.

What has happened in the 12 months since that momentous decision was made?

The Iranians have given up 98 percent of their nuclear material. They have dismantled thousands of centrifuges, and they filled the core of a major plutonium reactor with concrete.

Even the chief of staff of the Israel Defense Forces, the IDF, said: "The deal has actually removed the most serious danger to Israel's existence for the foreseeable future and greatly reduced the threat over the longer term."

The promoters of these three bills are in a state of denial. They took every opportunity along the torturous path of negotiations to try to block, obstruct, and interfere with those negotiations and leave us with only the choice of war and military action to stop the Iranians from developing a nuclear weapon. So today, having denied diplomacy for so long, they are still compelled to deny that diplomacy has worked in the last year.

What we should be doing today is building on our success, not seeking to subvert it. Success so far doesn't mean that the Iranians may not backtrack. We know this is an authoritarian government that commits many wrongs today. It is certainly not our friend. That is why careful scrutiny and intensive inspections must continue. I believe that patient, deliberate diplomacy remains the only course—the best path—to protect our families.

Now, one of the Republican Members this morning attacked the agreement and said that it has got us "walking on eggshells." I have to tell you that even if that is true—and I deny that it is—walking on eggshells is much, much better for American families than the death and destruction of unleashing actual military shells. That is the alternative.

I believe that continuous, intrusive monitoring is the key to keeping our

families safe and avoiding war. We have a lot of people agreeing with that. Nobel laureates, generals, diplomats, and former legislators are advising that, through this agreement, all pathways to an Iranian nuclear weapon have been blocked—so they said in their letter this week.

I remain hopeful. I am hopeful and optimistic that eventually we will overcome the extremists in Iran, hopeful that peace will prevail, and hopeful about this Congress, if nothing else, will not undo this agreement. Because they have shown such an inability to do any other work as they today shut down the Congress for the next 53 days, leaving so many challenges unanswered.

Let's conclude today by rejecting this attempt to deny the most effective way to protect the security of our families and that of our allies by letting diplomacy continue to advance.

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

Mr. Speaker, just to make a point, this is not a breach of the nuclear deal. This has nothing to do with the nuclear deal. We did not agree to give Iran access to the U.S. dollar. As a matter of fact, the agreement that we all understood is that, without ending its support for terrorism and proliferation of missiles, they weren't going to get that access. There were things we have held in reserve as continued pressure against Iran to get its compliance.

The difficulty is that the ayatollah wants this form of additional relief outside of the deal, which essentially declares that Iran is open for business. He wants to be able to do it without ending his proliferation of missiles and these ballistic missile tests.

And we are saying: No, no, that was not in the deal. We are not giving you additional—additional—rewards while you are decrying the United States and saying "death to the Great Satan," "death to the Little Satan," "death to America," and "death to Israel."

Why should we further give advantage to the build-up of Iranian power when it is going not into the economy but into the hands—the coffers—of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps?

That is the problem.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), a member of the Committee on Financial Services and the Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the chairman yielding. I appreciate his work on this important issue. He makes a good point, which is that this is not so much about the JCPOA, as noted by the opposition. This is about the fact that our joint agreement that the Obama administration reached with our allies with Iran is in conflict in many ways with existing Federal law and Federal practice where we are still involved in analyzing Iran for its sanction violations.

More importantly, while there is a lot of talk about the 1-year anniversary

of the JCPOA, I want to remind my friends on both sides of the aisle that 7 years ago, in June, 2009, the people of Iran rose up against the malicious mullahs of their murderous regime, and their cries for help fell on deaf ears in the United States. Some 4,000 were arrested.

What has become of them? What has become of those people? What has become of their cause?

So I want to remember in June 2009, the impact of this regime in Iran.

I am proud to support this legislation. I am proud to serve on the Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing.

Look to the State Department's most recent Country Reports on Iran. The report states: "Iran's state sponsorship of terrorism worldwide remained undiminished through the Islamic Revolutionary Guards, the Quds Force, its Ministry of Intelligence and Security, and Tehran's ally, Hezbollah."

In addition to its support for terrorism, the Iranian regime is corrupt and known to be involved in money laundering, bribery, and illicit finance around the world—not just the Middle East, but in the Western Hemisphere. The Treasury has designated the Government of Iran as a primary money laundering concern since 2011.

International financial bodies, such as the Financial Action Task Force, have warned Iran's financing of terrorism poses a serious threat to the international financial system.

So since the Iranian deal, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard is actively providing funding and arms to Hezbollah and Hamas, propping up Shia militias in Iraq, and responsible for deaths of Americans and our soldiers in Iraq. They continue to hold hostages. They continue to fail Federal adjudicated claims of 35 years of victims, and they continue to trade and test ballistic weapons, threatening our allies and our best interests.

This legislation is not about sinking the nuclear deal. This legislation is about holding Iran accountable for its terrorist finance activities and its money laundering activities. There is no reason in any way, shape, or form that they deserve dollar access.

This legislation is about maintaining the integrity of our country's financial system and preventing the dollar from being used to support terrorism around the world. I am pleased to support this legislation.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES), a member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4992 precisely because the passage of H.R. 4992, were it to become law—and I say this as a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence—would put me and this Congress and the rest of us in the United States back in a position of walking on eggshells, if I

might borrow a phrase used by the Republican majority. It would put me back in the position of every single week going to the spaces of the Intelligence Committee and asking the question, What kind of progress has Iran made this week in their efforts to deliver nuclear weapons, and then hearing answers that I would not like and nobody in this Chamber would like.

There is no question and there is no legal opinion of any credibility that suggests that H.R. 4992 is not a very clear violation of our obligations under the JCPOA.

The majority has talked a lot about denying access to the U.S. infrastructure financial system, which the Treasury Secretary has said we will do. What they are not telling you is that H.R. 4992 would subject non-U.S. banks to the same restrictions on U.S. banks regarding dollar-denominated transactions.

So we would say to a French bank: You cannot undertake a transaction with a German hotel developer if it were denominated in dollars.

Now, apart from the jurisdictional questions and the damage that would do to the United States dollar as the global reserve currency, it is a very clear violation of the JCPOA. There is no legal interpretation of any credibility that would suggest otherwise.

Now, let me be clear about some things that we all agree on—and I have a profound amount of respect for Chairman ROYCE, and we agree on some things. I have heard a steady stream from the other side of the truth that Iran is money laundering, that they are sponsoring terrorism, that they are destabilizing the region, and that they treat their people terribly. You are 100 percent right on that issue. You will find no disagreement on this side of the aisle with any of those allegations. But the fact of the matter is that the Iran nuclear deal, which is jeopardized by this bill, was a deal that said: In exchange for stopping your development of nuclear weapons, we will provide you with access to some of your own money.

That was the deal. The deal did not include: You will stop destabilizing the region and that you will stop your terrorist activity.

By the way, I am sorry about that. I would have liked to have seen a deal that would have brought Iran entirely into the community of nations, but that was not the deal. By the way, there was a time in American history when we were a bit more adult in the way we thought about foreign relations where Ronald Reagan would go to the Soviet Union—what he called the evil empire—and do an Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces deal that was about nuclear weapons while the Soviet Union was murderous to their own people, destabilizing the globe, and threatening us with annihilation. But we said it was worth preserving the deal and preserving the safety that we had against

ballistic weapons under Ronald Reagan.

Now, we can't disagree on some facts. I heard Chairman ROYCE say that tens of billions of dollars are going to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard. That is simply not true. Secretary Kerry estimated—and he was referring to actual dollars into the country—that some \$3 billion had come into Iran. So, yes, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard, sadly, will benefit in some small way from the sanctions relief. But the figure of tens of billions of dollars is simply inaccurate. We disagree fundamentally on the Iran nuclear deal.

The fact of the matter—and I have heard allegations from the other side to the contrary—is that not the IAEA—not any global bodies—are suggesting that Iran isn't anything other than in compliance with the deal. As a consequence, instead of being 2 months away, as we were, from the development of an Iranian nuclear weapon, we are probably 12 months or more away from the development of a nuclear weapon.

Is that perfect?

Of course, it is not. It is speaking as somebody who every week considers the threats to this country being 12 months away is a heck of a lot safer than being 2 months away.

I have heard from the other side that this is a flawed deal and that it jeopardizes U.S. national security and the security of Israel. Let me quote somebody who knows something about the security of Israel, Lieutenant General Gadi Eizenkot, Chief of Staff of Israel Defense Forces. Six months ago he said: "The deal has actually removed the most serious danger to Israel's existence for the foreseeable future and greatly reduced the threat over the longer term."

If it is true for Israel, it is true for the United States. Stand up for peace, stand up for our international obligations, and oppose H.R. 4992.

□ 1200

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

I think the Secretary was awarded several Pinocchios from The Washington Post for that statement on the amount of support that would give the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps.

The reason why is because the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, in fact, owns many of the largest institutions. They were nationalized after the 1979 revolution. Because of this, they are beneficiaries of the economic activity. It is the number one economic actor, according to our Department of Commerce, according to our State Department. The IRGC is the number one economic actor.

So, in point of fact, yes, this deal is going to demonstrably benefit the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps at a time when they are in charge of this ballistic missile program, intercontinental ballistic missile program, which you see them developing and advancing as we speak.

I would just add one other point, and that is that there isn't a lot of debate here in terms of what message they are sending us when they go to the streets and, under the direction of the ayatollah, members of the IRGC chant "Death to America."

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT), a member of the Committee on Financial Services and of the Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman.

To my friend from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES), look, I know you to be one of the, actually, smartest people here on these sort of subjects. So I am going to take a slightly different approach and see if what I am actually reading in this legislation is a little different than some of the nature of the conversation here.

The way I am reading this legislation, it functionally says that U.S.-chartered institutions will not act as the clearers, clearinghouses, for FX, for dollar-denominated trade.

So, as we walk through those mechanics—if we all remember when we sat down, both in the isolated area, reading the nuclear agreement, what was in that agreement that said we are obligated to hand over the infrastructure of our U.S. financial system, our banking system, our foreign exchange clearing system, and we have an obligation to provide that infrastructure that we have built and hand that to the Islamic Republic of Iran? There is nothing in the agreement that says we have an obligation to provide our financial infrastructure to help them.

Now, we have already heard Chairman ROYCE and others walk through all of the bad acts and how this money is often killing people around the world and taking their lives and threatening our allies. That may be the meat of it, but the actual legislation functionally denies the use of clearing U.S. currency, U.S. dollars from U.S.-chartered institutions.

My understanding is that, if they wanted to, they could probably go to the Bank of Singapore and clear their dollars there into gold and wash money for other bad actors and send it to murderers in Lebanon.

But at least those institutions that we hold dear, that we regulate, that we talk about here, that our taxpayers guarantee deposits in, why would we hand Iran our infrastructure to clear their dollars when so many of their resources are going for bad acts?

I know we keep having this conversation of, "The nuclear deal is bad, many of us voted against it," others saying, "Oh, it is a great achievement, we want to support it." Fine. There is nothing in the agreement that says, great, you now get to use the U.S. infrastructure to finance yourselves, move money around, and actually ultimately wash money to do evil in the world.

So if we are going to have this conversation, let's be intellectually honest

of what the language in the legislation actually says.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH), the ranking member of the Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing on the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4992, the so-called United States Financial System Protection Act of 2016.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4992 would directly violate our commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. There is no question about that. By reimposing the secondary sanctions on Iran's banking sector, we clearly violate the terms of that JCPOA.

These are not transactions between the U.S. and Iran, but, rather, these are banking transactions that occur outside the U.S. financial system. These sanctions were lifted on implementation day, according to the agreement, but only after we put International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors in place in Iran, on the ground, to verify Iran's compliance with the deal.

That verification and reporting occurs on a monthly basis. The last report we have from the IAEA, who are on the ground in Iran, is that they are, indeed, in full compliance with the terms of the JCPOA which addressed their nuclear program.

Critics of the JCPOA will tell you that this bill is needed to ensure that Iran does not gain access to the U.S. financial system. Yet the administration has made clear that we are not going to reinstate the U-turn authorization or grant Iran access to the U.S. financial system. And, during the JCPOA talks, the U.S. stood firm that our sanctions against Iran's weapons of mass destruction, human rights violations, and support for terrorism were not on the table. They were not part of that agreement. And our primary trade embargo on Iran, with certain limited exceptions, is still in place.

Now, critics of the JCPOA will also tell you that the license that has been granted to Boeing to sell civilian passenger aircraft to Iran is really a subterfuge and that Iran is going to use these commercial jetliners to transport weapons or personnel in a military capacity.

They ignore the fact that Iran already has military combat aircraft that they purchased from Russia. So there is no need for Iran to buy Airbus aircraft from the EU or Boeing aircraft from the United States in order to fund their military, their air force. So that is clearly not something that they are trying to do. Like I said, they could buy directly from the Russian Government, as they have done in the past and they continue to do, combat aircraft.

Mr. Speaker, it is ironic that exactly 1 year after the U.S. and the P5+1 announced the landmark JCPOA that Congress is voting to undermine it. The

bills on the floor this week are an attempt to undermine that by opponents of this deal and have another bite of the apple and try to bring down the agreement.

I would like to remind my fellow Members that we have debated this already and the House and Senate failed to pass a joint resolution of disapproval. That deal is done. And, so far, even according to high-level Israeli officials, Iran remains in compliance with that agreement.

We should focus instead on ensuring that this is fully implemented and that our inspectors have a full and fair opportunity to maintain that Iran is indeed in compliance.

The global community, as a result of this agreement, will be in a better position to know and to respond sooner and with the benefit of having vast, detailed intelligence about Iran's nuclear facilities. We are there, we are on the ground like never before.

Iran has removed over two-thirds of its centrifuges and placed them under international supervision. That is a cut of nearly 14,000. It stopped enriching uranium and removed nuclear material from Fordow, one of its major facilities. It has cut its fissile material stockpile by 98 percent, from 12,000 kilograms to less than 300 kilograms of only non-weapons-grade material. The heavy water reactor at Arak has been rendered unusable for nuclear purposes. Finally, the JCPOA has verifiably delayed any possible path Iran may have to a nuclear weapon.

Enacting this bill, H.R. 4992, or any of these anti-Iran-nuclear-deal bills would give Iran's hardliners the very excuse that they want to rip up the JCPOA, kick out the IAEA inspectors on the agreement, and race toward getting a nuclear bomb.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RIGELL). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman.

Mr. LYNCH. If we do sabotage this deal, will we be able to count on the backup from the global community to bring Iran back into line? It is a risk I believe is dangerous and, in this case, unnecessary.

I urge my fellow Members to defeat H.R. 4992.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN), a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ROYCE for bringing this important legislation.

The American public stands with you, Chairman, and there are multiple reasons why the American public will stand with all of this Congress that will vote for this bill.

For one, the American public has an issue with financing Iranian terror through U.S. financial infrastructure. The American public has had an enormous issue with a lot of specifics re-

lated to the Iran nuclear agreement. It is not really much of an agreement. It is an unsigned political commitment.

There are material differences with regard to the agreement. The U.S. said, We are going to be able to access military sites. The Iranians said, Before, during, and after the negotiation, you will never be able to access our military sites. We said, Sanctions relief will be phased in over the course of time based on compliance. The Iranians say, No, sanctions relief will be immediate, no suspension. These are pretty important parts of the agreement.

Well, let's talk about some other parts that weren't part of the agreement, they weren't able to agree to. So they put into a secretive deal between the Iranians and an entity that we have no ability to actually be on an inspections team because, as the AP reports, the IAEA's agreement with the U.S.—these so-called deals where the verification is outlined. The Iranians, in some cases, are inspecting their own nuclear sites. In other cases, they are responsible for collecting some of their own soil samples.

That is why the American public stands with everyone who votes for this legislation, because of all the unilateral concessions that have been made since this agreement has been made. This isn't the only one.

Buying heavy water for no reason. While this President is holding the heavy water of the Iranians, those who vote for this bill, who have opposed the Iran nuclear agreement, they are holding the heavy water of American security for their \$1.7 billion payment that was made after this deal was reached: a \$400 million debt, plus \$1.3 billion of interest.

Or our detained soldiers, who were embarrassed through photography and videography. And we are saying thank you for releasing our sailors? The American public was outraged. Using our sailors as propaganda to make yourself look strong and the rest of us look weak.

Or maybe it is giving the Iranians access to U.S. financial institutions.

We are being laughed at. The Iranians will take to the street and they will chant "Death to America," they will continue their illegal test firing of intercontinental ballistic missiles, and they will detain Americans unjustly.

They know that we didn't even ask for a signature. Think about it. Of all the agreements we enter into in life—buying a car or buying a home—we couldn't even ask for a signature.

The American public is upset.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES).

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, to my friend from New York (Mr. ZELDIN), perhaps we didn't get a signature, but we got compliance from Iran on their obligations to stop their production of nuclear weapons.

□ 1215

I want to take the rest of my time to hopefully clear up a factual matter.

I have profound respect for Chairman ROYCE, and Congressman SCHWEIKERT is one of my closest friends in this Chamber. We seem to have a disagreement as to whether this would jeopardize the JCPOA. This bill would subject non-U.S. banks to the same restrictions that are put on U.S. banks regarding dollar-denominated securities. I would point to, in the JCPOA, annex II, which lists the sanctions to be lifted under the JCPOA, 4.1.3, which lifts sanctions on the provision of U.S. bank notes.

This would clearly violate our obligations under the JCPOA, and I would hope that my friends in the majority would acknowledge that fact as they push this bill. I continue to urge its rejection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE), a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4992, the United States Financial System Protection Act; and I thank Chairman ROYCE for offering the legislation today and for his tremendous leadership on this issue.

Allowing Iran access to the U.S. dollar would mark an unprecedented concession to the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism. Iran has taken virtually no tangible actions to suggest that it is serious about dismantling its nuclear program or ending its decades-long ties to terrorism. Why should Iran be rewarded with coveted access to our currency?

Last week, I offered an amendment to the Financial Services Appropriations Act that would make sure that the U.S. Treasury officials who might be attempting to act on this matter would not be permitted to do so—to change statutory law. This would go not only to this administration, but to future administrations as well. My amendment passed by a voice vote, and today's legislation and the previous bills go further in adding new sanctions to stop the administration's purchase of heavy water from Iran and to prevent any additional steps to appease Iran.

This goes to the heart of the agreement, which was voted down in this House. It was never voted on in the other House because of cloture. Let us make sure that Iran is held accountable. Iran has done nothing to earn our trust. Let's not give away critical language in this regard. I urge a strong "yes" vote on Chairman ROYCE's legislation.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

You have heard very clearly from this side of the aisle as to why it is so important for us to be true to our commitments that were made under the agreement. You have heard very clearly what this bill is all about.

Part of that agreement which is being denied by the opposite side of the aisle has to do with non-U.S. financial institutions. We maintain our sanctions as they relate to the United States financial institutions. Our institutions are not in any way violating those sanctions, and we do not allow our financial institutions to do business with Iran; but we do support non-U.S. financial institutions' ability to do business with Iran.

What is this bill all about?

We keep hearing about rumors. We keep hearing about suspicions. We keep hearing about what we think they may do. We keep hearing about what someone else said they are going to do. The fact of the matter is this agreement is extremely clear. They—that is the Iranians—have not violated this agreement at all. As a matter of fact, there is something in the agreement called dispute resolution. If you believe that they have violated the agreement in some way, why don't you insist on a dispute resolution to deal with the issue? But you cannot do that. You cannot point to anything that the Iranians have done that is in disagreement with the agreement that has been made.

Why are you coming to the floor of the House of Representatives 1 day before we are to take a break and putting this bill and other bills on the floor? Is this politically motivated? What are you trying to do? Who are you trying to send a message to?

Instead of using your power and your ability to deal with this agreement in an honest and credible way, what you should be doing is supporting the President of the United States of America and respecting this country and our commitments.

We have five other countries in this deal. What happens if we renege on our agreements? What are they to think of us? What do you think about your country? Why would you have the President of the United States on the international stage looking as if the rug has been pulled out from under him by his own legislators? I don't get it. I do not understand it.

As a matter of fact, one of the things we should all be very clear about is our support for Israel. That side of the aisle does not support our relationship and our friendship any more than we do. If that is the message you are trying to send, it doesn't work. It doesn't hold water. As a matter of fact, any Member of Congress who looks at this agreement, who reads the agreement, who understands the agreement knows that you don't have any issues with what is happening in our financial system. You have not been able, in this debate, to talk about the fact that U.S. financial systems are not involved in any way.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will direct her remarks to the Chair.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I will address these re-

marks to you so they can hear them, and that is that they have not been able to identify in this debate how the United States financial institutions are involved in any shape, form, or fashion in doing business with Iran. They have not been able, in the debate, to indicate that, somehow, we have not agreed that non-U.S. financial institutions can be involved in financial deals with Iran.

I am simply asking that they deal with the facts. I am simply asking them not to undermine the agreement that we have made. I am simply asking them to admit that Iran has in no way violated this agreement. I am asking them to simply support this country and this President and to make sure that we don't separate ourselves from the other five countries that we have a deal with. I am asking them not to put us in the position in which the other five countries say: "We cannot trust America. We cannot trust America because they are renegeing on the deal."

We have done a tremendous service not only to Israel but to the United States in working out this deal to ensure that Iran does not continue to develop its nuclear capability. Why did we do that? It is because we are on the path toward peace and not war. We do not want Iran to attack Israel, and we do not want Israel to attack Iran. We do not want the United States to be thrown into this war—a war that could be created by either of them—because we believe that we can provide credible leadership for peace. That is what this is all about.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I would just like to say that we are all in agreement that Iran should not be a nuclear state, which would pose a direct threat to both the United States and international security.

The Iran nuclear deal is the best option we have for keeping nuclear weapons out of the Iranian Government's hands. It would be reckless to abandon our commitments under the deal which deny Iran a credible opportunity to produce weapons-grade nuclear material for use in a bomb for at least a generation. To date, Iran, again, has upheld its end of the deal, and we have a responsibility to do the same.

The President's Statement of Administration Policy on H.R. 4992 and the other harmful Iran-related bills on the floor this week state that undermining the JCPOA would "remove the unprecedented constraints on and monitoring of Iran's nuclear program, lead to the unraveling of the international sanctions regime against Iran, and deal a devastating blow to the credibility of America's leadership and our commitments to our closest allies."

H.R. 4992 is being framed as protecting the U.S. financial system; yet

our financial system is already protected by our primary sanctions on Iran. In other words, this bill does nothing to protect the U.S. financial system or to promote our national security. In fact, it does the opposite.

We have said all of this, which I have just reiterated, but let me make my final and closing statement.

Why are you wasting your time? Even if, by some stroke of magic, you could get this through the Senate and send it to the President of the United States, he is going to veto it. They know it. Everyone knows it. Why are we doing this?

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Part of the problem here is that money laundering in Iran has been proven to be tied to their efforts to support international terrorism. The unfortunate case here is what we are debating. Remember, we were originally assured, yes, we can push back on issues like their ballistic missile program, that we can push back on their support for terrorism or on their abject destruction of the human rights of the people inside Iran. We can put pressure on those fronts.

We have somehow reached the point at which, despite the testimony of the administration that we were going to be pushing back, the administration feels that any steps we take to assert a position on these fronts is injurious to the relationship with Iran or, in some way, undermines the JCPOA. In terms of Iran, the entire country is designated by our Treasury Department as a jurisdiction of primary money laundering concern, and not just by our country and not just by our Treasury, but by the international system that looks at these financial systems. They have determined the same with respect to Iran.

Secretary of State Kerry and his colleagues in the administration are in the midst of a campaign to reassure foreign firms that Iran is open for business. All right. We can trade with Iran, but it is an additional step beyond that to say that Iran is going to have the right to access U.S. dollars. Other administration officials, by the way, go so far as to say that Iranian economic growth is in our national security interest.

I don't think it is in our national security interest. Frankly, if people are going to trade with Iran, they can do it without the use of U.S. dollars.

It is a tough case to make in terms of this, in some way, being in our national interest when you consider that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps has been labeled—what?—by the U.S. Treasury Department as being the “most powerful economic actor” in the country, the IRGC. That is the same entity that is developing these ballistic missiles and that is supporting terror throughout the region. It is a terrorist IRGC by our own labeling here in the United States.

That should be enough to put the brakes on the administration's plans to get Iran out from under restrictions that prohibit trade with Iran in dollars. You can trade, but you can't trade in dollars, okay?

□ 1230

The pervasive influence of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps throughout Iran's economy means that extreme due diligence will be necessary to ensure that foreign companies and foreign banks are not complicit in Iran's terror finance or the range of other illicit financial activities in which Iranian entities regularly engage. That is why this legislation protects the integrity of the U.S. dollar from Iranian illicit finance by codifying existing restrictions, clarifying restrictions on foreign financial institutions involved in dollarization, and, again, links determination of these measures to the end of Iranian support of terrorists. Easy enough for Iran to solve the problem; just quit supporting terrorism.

I urge all Members to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 819, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

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

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

Mr. ROYCE. 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 question will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the order of the House of today, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

The motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to S. 764; and passage of H.R. 5631.

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

NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on adopting the motion to concur in the

Senate amendment to the House amendment to the bill (S. 764) to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 306, nays 117, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 466]

YEAS—306

Abraham	Duffy	Kirkpatrick
Adams	Duncan (SC)	Kline
Aderholt	Edwards	Knight
Aguilar	Ellmers (NC)	Labrador
Allen	Emmer (MN)	LaHood
Amodei	Engel	LaMalfa
Ashford	Farenthold	Lamborn
Babin	Fincher	Lance
Barletta	Fitzpatrick	Latta
Barr	Fleischmann	Lawrence
Barton	Fleming	Lewis
Beatty	Flores	Lipinski
Benishek	Forbes	LoBiondo
Bera	Fortenberry	Loeb
Bilirakis	Foster	Long
Bishop (GA)	Fox	Loudermilk
Bishop (MI)	Frelinghuysen	Love
Blum	Fudge	Lucas
Bost	Gallego	Luetkemeyer
Boustany	Garamendi	Lujan Grisham
Boyle, Brendan	Garrett	(NM)
F.	Gibbs	Lummis
Brady (PA)	Gohmert	Lynch
Brady (TX)	Gosar	MacArthur
Brooks (IN)	Gowdy	Matsui
Brown (FL)	Graham	McCarthy
Brownley (CA)	Granger	McCaul
Bucshon	Graves (GA)	McClintock
Bustos	Graves (LA)	McCollum
Butterfield	Graves (MO)	McHenry
Byrne	Green, Al	McKinley
Calvert	Green, Gene	McMorris
Cárdenas	Griffith	Rodgers
Carney	Grothman	McSally
Carson (IN)	Guinta	Meadows
Carter (GA)	Guthrie	Meehan
Carter (TX)	Hanna	Meeks
Cartwright	Hardy	Mica
Castor (FL)	Harper	Miller (FL)
Castro (TX)	Harris	Miller (MI)
Chabot	Hartzler	Moolenaar
Chaffetz	Herrera Beutler	Moulton
Clawson (FL)	Hice, Jody B.	Mullin
Clay	Hill	Mulvaney
Cleaver	Hinojosa	Murphy (FL)
Clyburn	Holding	Murphy (PA)
Cole	Hoyer	Napolitano
Collins (GA)	Hudson	Newhouse
Collins (NY)	Huelskamp	Noem
Comstock	Huizenga (MI)	Nolan
Conaway	Hultgren	Norcross
Connolly	Hunter	Nugent
Cook	Hurd (TX)	Nunes
Cooper	Hurt (VA)	O'Rourke
Costa	Issa	Olson
Costello (PA)	Jackson Lee	Palazzo
Cramer	Jeffries	Pascarell
Crawford	Jenkins (KS)	Paulsen
Crenshaw	Jenkins (WV)	Payne
Cuellar	Johnson (GA)	Perry
Curbelo (FL)	Johnson (OH)	Peters
Davidson	Johnson, E. B.	Peterson
Davis (CA)	Johnson, Sam	Pittenger
Davis, Danny	Jolly	Pitts
Davis, Rodney	Jordan	Pompeo
Delaney	Joyce	Price, Tom
DelBene	Kaptur	Quigley
Denham	Katko	Rangel
Dent	Keating	Ratcliffe
DesJarlais	Kelly (IL)	Reed
Diaz-Balart	Kelly (MS)	Reichert
Dingell	Kelly (PA)	Renacci
Doggett	Kennedy	Ribble
Dold	Kildee	Rice (NY)
Donovan	Kind	Rice (SC)
Doyle, Michael	King (IA)	Richmond
F.	King (NY)	Rigell
Duckworth	Kinzinger (IL)	Roby

Roe (TN) Sinema
 Rogers (AL) Sires
 Rogers (KY) Smith (MO)
 Rokita Smith (NE)
 Ros-Lehtinen Smith (TX)
 Roskam Speier
 Ross Stefanik
 Rothfus Stewart
 Rouzer Stivers
 Royce Stutzman
 Ruiz Swalwell (CA)
 Ruppberger Takano
 Rush Thompson (CA)
 Russell Thompson (MS)
 Salmon Thompson (PA)
 Sanchez, Loretta Thornberry
 Schrader Tiberi
 Schweikert Torres
 Scott (VA) Trott
 Scott, Austin Tsongas
 Scott, David Turner
 Sessions Upton
 Sewell (AL) Valadao
 Shimkus Vargas
 Shuster Veasey
 Simpson Vela

Stated for:
 Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 466, on agreeing to the Senate amendment to the House amendment to S. 764, I am not recorded because I was representing constituents on business outside of Washington, D.C. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Stated against:
 Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 466, On Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment with an Amendment to S. 764, GMO Labeling Requirements, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Neugebauer
 Newhouse
 Noem
 Nugent
 Nunes
 Olson
 Palazzo
 Palmer
 Paulsen
 Perry
 Peterson
 Pittenger
 Pitts
 Poliquin
 Pompeo
 Posey
 Price, Tom
 Ratcliffe
 Reed
 Reichert
 Renacci
 Ribble
 Rice (SC)
 Rigell
 Roby
 Roe (TN)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rohrabacher
 Rokita
 Rooney (FL)
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Ross
 Rothfus
 Rouzer
 Royce
 Russell
 Salmon
 Sanford
 Scalise
 Schweikert
 Scott, Austin
 Sensenbrenner
 Sessions
 Sherman
 Shimkus
 Shuster
 Simpson
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Stefanik
 Stewart
 Stivers
 Stutzman
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Tiberi
 Tipton
 Trott

Turner
 Upton
 Valadao
 Vargas
 Vela
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Walden
 Walker
 Walorski
 Walters, Mimi
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Wenstrup
 Westerman
 Westmoreland
 Whitfield
 Williams
 Wilson (FL)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wilson (IN)
 Woodall
 Yoder
 Yoho
 Young (AK)
 Young (IA)
 Young (IN)
 Zeldin
 Zinke

NAYS—117

Amash Grayson
 Bass Grijalva
 Becerra Gutiérrez
 Beyer Hahn
 Blackburn Heck (NV)
 Blumenauer Heck (WA)
 Bonamici Hensarling
 Brat Higgins
 Bridenstine Himes
 Brooks (AL) Honda
 Buchanan Huffman
 Buck Israel
 Burgess Jones
 Capps Kilmer
 Capuano Kuster
 Chu, Judy Langevin
 Cicilline Larsen (WA)
 Clark (MA) Larson (CT)
 Clarke (NY) Lee
 Coffman Levin
 Cohen Lieu, Ted
 Conyers Lofgren
 Courtney Lowenthal
 Culberson Lowey
 Cummings Luján, Ben Ray
 DeFazio (NM)
 DeGette Maloney,
 DeLauro Carolyn
 DeSantis Maloney, Sean
 DeSaulnier Marchant
 Deutch Massie
 Duncan (TN) McDermott
 Eshoo McGovern
 Esty McNerney
 Farr Meng
 Frankel (FL) Messer
 Franks (AZ) Mooney (WV)
 Gabbard Moore
 Gibson Nadler
 Goodlatte Neal

IRAN ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 5631) to hold Iran accountable for its state sponsorship of terrorism and other threatening activities and for its human rights abuses, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.
 The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 246, nays 179, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 467]
 YEAS—246

NOT VOTING—10
 Bishop (UT) Hastings
 Black Marino
 Crowley Pearce
 Ellison Poe (TX)

Abraham
 Aderholt
 Allen
 Amodei
 Ashford
 Babin
 Barletta
 Barr
 Barton
 Benishek
 Bilirakis
 Bishop (MI)
 Bishop (UT)
 Blackburn
 Blum
 Bost
 Boustany
 Brady (TX)
 Brat
 Bridenstine
 Brooks (AL)
 Brooks (IN)
 Buchanan
 Buck
 Bucshon
 Burgess
 Byrne
 Calvert
 Carter (GA)
 Carter (TX)
 Chabot
 Chaffetz
 Clawson (FL)
 Coffman
 Cole
 Collins (GA)
 Collins (NY)
 Comstock
 Conaway
 Cook
 Costello (PA)
 Cramer
 Crawford
 Crenshaw
 Culberson
 Curbelo (FL)
 Davidson
 Davis, Rodney
 Denham
 Dent
 DeSantis
 DesJarlais

Adams
 Aguilar
 Amash
 Bass
 Beatty
 Becerra
 Bera
 Beyer
 Bishop (GA)
 Blumenauer
 Bonamici
 Boyle, Brendan
 F.
 Brady (PA)
 Brown (FL)
 Brownley (CA)
 Bustos
 Butterfield
 Capps
 Capuano
 Cárdenas
 Carney
 Carson (IN)
 Cartwright
 Castor (FL)
 Castro (TX)
 Chu, Judy
 Cicilline
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Connolly
 Conyers
 Cooper
 Costa
 Courtney
 Cuellar
 Cummings
 Davis (CA)
 Davis, Danny
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 Delaney
 DeLauro
 DeBene
 DeSaulnier
 Deutch
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Doyle, Michael
 F.
 Duckworth
 Duncan (TN)
 Edwards
 Engel
 Eshoo
 Esty
 Farr
 Foster
 Frankel (FL)
 Gabbard
 Gallego
 Garamendi
 Grayson
 Green, Al
 Grijalva
 Gutiérrez
 Hahn
 Heck (WA)
 Higgins
 Himes
 Hinojosa
 Brown (FL)
 Hoyer
 Huffman
 Israel
 Jackson Lee
 Jeffries
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson, E. B.
 Jones
 Kaptur
 Keating
 Kelly (IL)
 Kennedy
 Kildee
 Kilmer
 Kind
 Kirkpatrick
 Kuster
 Langevin
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Lawrence
 Lee
 Levin
 Lewis
 Lieu, Ted
 Lipinski
 Loeb sack
 Lofgren
 Lowenthal
 Lowey
 Lujan Grisham
 (NM)
 Luján, Ben Ray
 (NM)
 Lynch
 Maloney,
 Carolyn
 Massie
 Matsui
 McCollum
 McDermott
 McGovern
 McNerney
 Meeks
 Meng
 Moore
 Moulton
 Murphy (FL)
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neal
 Nolan
 Norcross
 O'Rourke
 Pallone
 Pascrell
 Payne
 Pelosi
 Perlmutter
 Peters
 Pingree
 Pocan
 Polis
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Rangel
 Rice (NY)
 Richmond
 Roybal-Allard
 Ruiz
 Ruppberger
 Rush
 Ryan (OH)
 Sánchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sarbanes
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schrader
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, David
 Serrano
 Sewell (AL)
 Sinema
 Sires
 Slaughter
 Smith (WA)
 Speier
 Swalwell (CA)
 Takano
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Titus
 Tonko
 Torres
 Tsongas
 Van Hollen
 Veasey
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Walz
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters, Maxine
 Watson Coleman
 Welch
 Wilson (FL)
 Yarmuth

□ 1256

Mr. BRAT, Mses. BONAMICI, SCHAKOWSKY, Messrs. NEAL, BRIDENSTINE, Mses. MENG and MAXINE WATERS of California changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Messrs. JOHNSON of Ohio, YOUNG of Alaska, DOGGETT, Ms. EDWARDS, Messrs. CONNOLLY, HOYER, and PAYNE changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the motion to concur was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NOT VOTING—8

Black	Hastings	Poe (TX)
Crowley	Marino	Takai
Ellison	Pearce	

□ 1303

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 820 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5538.

Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) kindly resume the chair.

□ 1305

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5538) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, with Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, July 14, 2016, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 122 printed in House Report 114-683, offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO) had been postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 114-683 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 98 by Mr. BEYER of Virginia.

Amendment No. 99 by Mrs. CAPPS of California.

Amendment No. 100 by Mr. GRIJALVA of Arizona.

Amendment No. 102 by Mr. LOWENTHAL of California.

Amendment No. 103 by Mr. POCAN of Wisconsin.

Amendment No. 104 by Mr. POLIS of Colorado.

Amendment No. 106 by Ms. TSONGAS of Massachusetts.

Amendment No. 114 by Mr. NORCROSS of New Jersey.

Amendment No. 122 by Mr. GALLEGRO of Arizona.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 98 OFFERED BY MR. BEYER

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the

gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 178, noes 246, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 468]

AYES—178

Adams	Garamendi	Napolitano
Aguilar	Graham	Neal
Bass	Grayson	Nolan
Beatty	Green, Al	Norcross
Becerra	Green, Gene	O'Rourke
Bera	Grijalva	Pallone
Beyer	Gutiérrez	Pascarell
Blumenauer	Hahn	Payne
Bonamici	Heck (WA)	Pelosi
Boyle, Brendan F.	Higgins	Perlmutter
Brady (PA)	Himes	Peters
Brown (FL)	Hinojosa	Pingree
Brownley (CA)	Honda	Pocan
Bustos	Hoyer	Polis
Butterfield	Huffman	Price (NC)
Capps	Israel	Quigley
Capuano	Jackson Lee	Rangel
Cárdenas	Jeffries	Rice (NY)
Carney	Johnson (GA)	Roybal-Allard
Carson (IN)	Johnson, E. B.	Ruiz
Cartwright	Kaptur	Ruppersberger
Castor (FL)	Keating	Rush
Castro (TX)	Kelly (IL)	Ryan (OH)
Chu, Judy	Kennedy	Sánchez, Linda T.
Ciçilline	Kildee	Sanchez, Loretta
Clark (MA)	Kilmer	Sarbanes
Clarke (NY)	Kind	Schakowsky
Clay	Kirkpatrick	Schiff
Cleaver	Kuster	Schrader
Clyburn	Langevin	Larsen (WA)
Cohen	Larsen (CT)	Scott (VA)
Connolly	Lawrence	Scott, David
Conyers	Lee	Serrano
Courtney	Levin	Sewell (AL)
Cummings	Lewis	Sherman
Curbelo (FL)	Lieu, Ted	Sires
Davis (CA)	Lipinski	Slaughter
Davis, Danny	LoBiondo	Smith (NJ)
DeFazio	Loebsack	Smith (WA)
DeGette	Lofgren	Speier
Delaney	Lowenthal	Swalwell (CA)
DeLauro	Lowe	Takano
DelBene	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Thompson (CA)
DeSaulnier	Luján, Ben Ray (NM)	Thompson (MS)
Deutch	Lynch	Titus
Dingell	Maloney	Tonko
Doggett	Carolin	Torres
Doyle, Michael F.	Maloney, Sean	Tsongas
Duckworth	Matsui	Van Hollen
Edwards	McCollum	Vargas
Engel	McDermott	Veasey
Eshoo	McGovern	Vela
Esty	McNerney	Velázquez
Farr	Meeks	Visclosky
Fitzpatrick	Meng	Wasserman
Foster	Moore	Schultz
Frankel (FL)	Moulton	Waters, Maxine
Fudge	Murphy (FL)	Watson Coleman
Gabbard	Nadler	Welch
Gallego		Wilson (FL)
		Yarmuth

NOES—246

Abraham	Benishek	Brady (TX)
Aderholt	Bilirakis	Brat
Allen	Bishop (GA)	Bridenstine
Amash	Bishop (MI)	Brooks (AL)
Amodei	Bishop (UT)	Brooks (IN)
Ashford	Black	Buchanan
Babin	Blackburn	Buck
Barletta	Blum	Bucshon
Barr	Bost	Burgess
Barton	Boustany	Byrne

Calvert	Huizenga (MI)	Reichert
Carter (GA)	Hultgren	Renacci
Carter (TX)	Hunter	Ribble
Chabot	Hurd (TX)	Rice (SC)
Chaffetz	Hurt (VA)	Richmond
Clawson (FL)	Issa	Rigell
Coffman	Jenkins (KS)	Roby
Cole	Jenkins (WV)	Roe (TN)
Collins (GA)	Johnson (OH)	Rogers (AL)
Collins (NY)	Johnson, Sam	Rogers (KY)
Comstock	Jolly	Rohrabacher
Conaway	Jones	Rokita
Cook	Jordan	Rooney (FL)
Cooper	Joyce	Ros-Lehtinen
Costa	Katko	Roskam
Costello (PA)	Kelly (MS)	Ross
Cramer	Kelly (PA)	Rothfus
Crawford	King (IA)	Rouzer
Crenshaw	King (NY)	Royce
Cuellar	Kinzinger (IL)	Russell
Culberson	Klome	Salmon
Davidson	Knight	Sanford
Davis, Rodney	Labrador	Scalise
Denham	LaHood	Schweikert
Dent	LaMalfa	Scott, Austin
DeSantis	Lamborn	Sensenbrenner
DesJarlais	Lance	Sessions
Diaz-Balart	Latta	Shimkus
Dold	Long	Shuster
Donovan	Loudermilk	Simpson
Duffy	Love	Sinema
Duncan (SC)	Lucas	Smith (MO)
Duncan (TN)	Luetkemeyer	Smith (NE)
Ellmers (NC)	Lummis	Smith (TX)
Emmer (MN)	MacArthur	Stefanik
Farenthold	Marchant	Stewart
Fincher	Massie	Stivers
Fleischmann	McCarthy	Stutzman
Fleming	McCaul	Thompson (PA)
Flores	McClintock	Thornberry
Forbes	McHenry	Tiberi
Fortenberry	McKinley	Tipton
Fox	McMorris	Trott
Franks (AZ)	Rodgers	Turner
Frelinghuysen	McSally	Upton
Garrett	Meadows	Valadao
Gibbs	Meehan	Wagner
Gibson	Mica	Walberg
Gohmert	Miller (FL)	Walden
Goodlatte	Miller (MI)	Walker
Gosar	Mooleenaar	Walorski
Gowdy	Mooney (WV)	Walters, Mimi
Granger	Mullin	Walz
Graves (GA)	Mulvaney	Weber (TX)
Graves (LA)	Murphy (PA)	Webster (FL)
Graves (MO)	Neugebauer	Wenstrup
Griffith	Newhouse	Westerman
Grothman	Noem	Westmoreland
Guinta	Nugent	Whitfield
Guthrie	Nunes	Williams
Hanna	Olson	Wilson (SC)
Hardy	Palazzo	Wittman
Harper	Palmer	Womack
Harris	Paulsen	Woodall
Hartzler	Perry	Yoder
Heck (NV)	Peterson	Yoho
Hensarling	Pittenger	Young (AK)
Herrera Beutler	Pitts	Young (IA)
Hice, Jody B.	Poliquin	Young (IN)
Hill	Pompeo	Zeldin
Holding	Posey	Zinke
Hudson	Ratcliffe	
Huelskamp	Reed	

NOT VOTING—9

Crowley	Marino	Poe (TX)
Ellison	Messer	Price, Tom
Hastings	Pearce	Takai

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1310

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

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chair, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 466, “nay” on rollcall No. 467, and “yea” on rollcall No. 468.

AMENDMENT NO. 99 OFFERED BY MRS. CAPPS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 172, noes 254, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 469]

AYES—172

Adams	Gabbard	Nolan
Aguilar	Galleo	Norcross
Bass	Garamendi	O'Rourke
Beatty	Graham	Pallone
Becerra	Grayson	Pascarell
Bera	Grijalva	Payne
Beyer	Gutiérrez	Pelosi
Blumenauer	Hahn	Perlmutter
Bonamici	Heck (WA)	Peters
Boyle, Brendan	Higgins	Pingree
F.	Hinojosa	Pocan
Brady (PA)	Honda	Polis
Brown (FL)	Hoyer	Price (NC)
Brownley (CA)	Huffman	Quigley
Bustos	Israel	Rangel
Butterfield	Jackson Lee	Rice (NY)
Capps	Jeffries	Richmond
Capuano	Johnson (GA)	Ros-Lehtinen
Cárdenas	Johnson, E. B.	Royal-Allard
Carney	Jones	Ruiz
Carson (IN)	Kaptur	Ruppersberger
Cartwright	Keating	Rush
Castor (FL)	Kelly (IL)	Ryan (OH)
Castro (TX)	Kennedy	Sánchez, Linda
Chu, Judy	Kildee	T.
Cicilline	Kilmer	Sanchez, Loretta
Clark (MA)	Kind	Sanford
Clarke (NY)	Kirkpatrick	Sarbanes
Clawson (FL)	Kuster	Schakowsky
Clay	Langevin	Schiff
Cleaver	Larsen (WA)	Schrader
Clyburn	Larson (CT)	Scott (VA)
Cohen	Lawrence	Scott, David
Connolly	Lee	Serrano
Conyers	Levin	Sewell (AL)
Courtney	Lewis	Sherman
Crowley	Lieu, Ted	Sires
Cummings	Lipinski	Slaughter
Davis (CA)	Loeb sack	Smith (WA)
Davis, Danny	Lofgren	Speier
DeFazio	Lowenthal	Swalwell (CA)
DeGette	Lowey	Takano
Delaney	Lynch	Thompson (CA)
DeLauro	Maloney,	Thompson (MS)
DelBene	Carolyn	Titus
DeSaulnier	Maloney, Sean	Tonko
Deutch	Matsui	Tsongas
Dingell	McCollum	Van Hollen
Doggett	McDermott	Vargas
Doyle, Michael	McGovern	Velázquez
F.	McNerney	Visclosky
Duckworth	Meeks	Walz
Edwards	Meng	Wasserman
Engel	Moore	Schultz
Eshoo	Moulton	Waters, Maxine
Esty	Murphy (FL)	Watson Coleman
Farr	Nadler	Welch
Foster	Napolitano	Wilson (FL)
Fudge	Neal	Yarmuth

NOES—254

Abraham	Barr	Blackburn
Aderholt	Barton	Blum
Allen	Benishek	Bost
Amash	Bilirakis	Boustany
Amodei	Bishop (GA)	Brady (TX)
Ashford	Bishop (MI)	Brat
Babin	Bishop (UT)	Bridenstine
Barletta	Black	Brooks (AL)

Brooks (IN)	Hill
Buchanan	Himes
Buck	Holding
Bucshon	Hudson
Burgess	Huelskamp
Byrne	Huizenga (MI)
Calvert	Hultgren
Carter (GA)	Hunter
Carter (TX)	Hurd (TX)
Chabot	Hurt (VA)
Chaffetz	Issa
Coffman	Jenkins (KS)
Cole	Jenkins (WV)
Collins (GA)	Johnson (OH)
Collins (NY)	Johnson, Sam
Comstock	Jolly
Conaway	Jordan
Cook	Joyce
Cooper	Katko
Costa	Kelly (MS)
Costello (PA)	Kelly (PA)
Cramer	King (IA)
Crawford	King (NY)
Crenshaw	Kinzinger (IL)
Cuellar	Kline
Culberson	Knight
Curbelo (FL)	Labrador
Davidson	LaHood
Davis, Rodney	LaMalfa
Denham	Lamborn
Dent	Lance
DeSantis	Latta
DesJarlais	LoBiondo
Diaz-Balart	Long
Dold	Loudermillk
Donovan	Love
Duffy	Lucas
Duncan (SC)	Luetkemeyer
Duncan (TN)	Lujan Grisham
Ellmers (NC)	(NM)
Emmer (MN)	Luján, Ben Ray
Farenthold	(NM)
Fincher	Lummis
Fitzpatrick	MacArthur
Fleischmann	Marchant
Fleming	Massie
Flores	McCarthy
Forbes	McCauley
Fortenberry	McClintock
Fox	McHenry
Franks (AZ)	McKinley
Frelinghuysen	McMorris
Garrett	Rodgers
Gibbs	McSally
Gibson	Meadows
Gohmert	Meehan
Goodlatte	Messer
Gosar	Mica
Gowdy	Miller (FL)
Granger	Miller (MI)
Graves (GA)	Moolenaar
Graves (LA)	Mooney (WV)
Graves (MO)	Mullin
Green, Al	Mulvaney
Green, Gene	Murphy (PA)
Griffith	Neugebauer
Grothman	Newhouse
Guinta	Noem
Guthrie	Nugent
Hanna	Nunes
Hardy	Olson
Harper	Palazzo
Harris	Palmer
Hartzler	Paulsen
Heck (NV)	Perry
Hensarling	Peterson
Herrera Beutler	Pittenger
Hice, Jody B.	Pitts

NOT VOTING—7

Ellison	Marino	Takai
Frankel (FL)	Pearce	
Hastings	Poe (TX)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1313

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 100 OFFERED BY MR. GRIJALVA
The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
business is the demand for a recorded
vote on the amendment offered by the
gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRI-

JALVA) on which further proceedings
were postponed and on which the noes
prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic de-
vice, and there were—ayes 194, noes 233,
not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 470]

AYES—194

Adams	Fudge	Nadler
Aguilar	Gabbard	Napolitano
Ashford	Galleo	Neal
Bass	Garamendi	Nolan
Beatty	Graham	Norcross
Becerra	Grayson	O'Rourke
Bera	Green, Al	Pallone
Beyer	Green, Gene	Pascarell
Bishop (GA)	Grijalva	Payne
Blumenauer	Gutiérrez	Pelosi
Bonamici	Hahn	Perlmutter
Boyle, Brendan	Hahn	Peters
F.	Hanna	Pingree
Brady (PA)	Heck (WA)	Pocan
Brown (FL)	Higgins	Himes
Brownley (CA)	Brown (FL)	Hinojosa
Buchanan	Brownley (CA)	Honda
Bustos	Buchanan	Hoyer
Butterfield	Bustos	Huffman
Capps	Butterfield	Israel
Capuano	Capps	Jackson Lee
Cárdenas	Capuano	Jeffries
Carney	Cárdenas	Johnson (GA)
Carson (IN)	Carney	Johnson, E. B.
Cartwright	Carson (IN)	Jones
Castor (FL)	Cartwright	Kaptur
Castro (TX)	Castor (FL)	Katko
Chu, Judy	Castro (TX)	Keating
Cicilline	Chu, Judy	Kelly (IL)
Clark (MA)	Cicilline	Kennedy
Clarke (NY)	Clark (MA)	Kildee
Clawson (FL)	Clarke (NY)	Kilmer
Clay	Clay	Kind
Cleaver	Cleaver	Kirkpatrick
Clyburn	Clyburn	Kuster
Cohen	Cohen	Langevin
Connolly	Connolly	Larsen (WA)
Conyers	Conyers	Larson (CT)
Courtney	Cooper	Lawrence
Crowley	Costa	Lee
Cummings	Costello (PA)	Levin
Davis (CA)	Courtney	Lewis
Davis, Danny	Crowley	Lieu, Ted
DeFazio	Cuellar	Lipinski
DeGette	Cummings	Loeb sack
Delaney	Davis (CA)	Lofgren
DeLauro	DeFazio	Lowenthal
DelBene	DeGette	Lowey
Dent	Delaney	Lujan Grisham
DeSaulnier	DeLauro	(NM)
Deutch	DelBene	Luján, Ben Ray
Dingell	Dent	(NM)
Doggett	DeSaulnier	Lynch
Doyle, Michael	Deutch	Maloney,
F.	Dingell	Carolyn
Duckworth	Doggett	Maloney, Sean
Edwards	Doyle, Michael	Matsui
Engel	F.	McCollum
Eshoo	Duckworth	McDermott
Esty	Edwards	McGovern
Farr	Engel	McNerney
Farr	Eshoo	Meehan
Fitzpatrick	Esty	Meeks
Foster	Farr	Meng
Frankel (FL)	Farr	Moore
	Fitzpatrick	Moulton
	Foster	Murphy (FL)
	Frankel (FL)	

NOES—233

Abraham	Barletta	Bishop (UT)
Aderholt	Barr	Black
Allen	Barton	Blackburn
Amash	Benishek	Blum
Amodei	Bilirakis	Bost
Babin	Bishop (MI)	Boustany

Brady (TX) Hice, Jody B. Pompeo
 Brat Hill Posey
 Bridenstine Holding Price, Tom
 Brooks (AL) Hudson Ratcliffe
 Brooks (IN) Huelskamp Reed
 Buck Huizenga (MI) Renacci
 Bueshon Hultgren Ribble
 Burgess Hunter Rice (SC)
 Byrne Hurd (TX) Rigell
 Calvert Hurt (VA) Roby
 Carter (GA) Issa Roe (TN)
 Carter (TX) Jenkins (KS) Rogers (AL)
 Chabot Jenkins (WV) Rogers (KY)
 Chaffetz Johnson (OH) Rohrabacher
 Clawson (FL) Johnson, Sam Rokita
 Coffman Jolly Rooney (FL)
 Cole Jordan Ros-Lehtinen
 Collins (GA) Joyce Roskam
 Collins (NY) Kelly (MS) Ross
 Comstock Kelly (PA) Rothfus
 Conway King (IA) Rouzer
 Cook King (NY) Royce
 Cramer Kinzinger (IL) Russell
 Crawford Kline Salmon
 Crenshaw Knight Sanford
 Culberson Labrador Scalise
 Curbelo (FL) LaHood Schweikert
 Davidson LaMalfa Scott, Austin
 Davis, Rodney Lamborn Sensenbrenner
 Denham Lance Sessions
 DeSantis Latta Shimkus
 DesJarlais LoBiondo Shuster
 Diaz-Balart Long Simpson
 Dold Loudermilk Smith (MO)
 Donovan Love Smith (NE)
 Duffy Lucas Smith (NJ)
 Duncan (SC) Luetkemeyer Smith (TX)
 Duncan (TN) Lummis Stefanik
 Ellmers (NC) MacArthur Stewart
 Emmer (MN) Marchant Stivers
 Farenthold Massie Stutzman
 Fincher McCarthy Thompson (PA)
 Fleischmann McCaul Thornberry
 Fleming McClintock Tiberi
 Flores McHenry Tipton
 Forbes McKinley Trott
 Fortenberry McMorris Turner
 Foss Rodgers Valadao
 Franks (AZ) McSally Wagner
 Frelinghuysen Meadows Walberg
 Garrett Messer Walden
 Gibbs Mica Walker
 Gibson Miller (FL) Walorski
 Gohmert Miller (MI) Walters, Mimi
 Goodlatte Moolenaar Weber (TX)
 Gosar Mooney (WV) Webster (FL)
 Gowdy Mullin Wenstrup
 Granger Mulvaney Westerman
 Graves (GA) Murphy (PA) Westmoreland
 Graves (LA) Neugebauer Whitfield
 Graves (MO) Newhouse Williams
 Griffith Noem Wilson (SC)
 Grothman Nugent Wittman
 Guinta Nunes Womack
 Guthrie Olson Woodall
 Hardy Palazzo Yoder
 Harper Palmer Yoho
 Harris Paulsen Young (AK)
 Hartzler Perry Young (IA)
 Heck (NV) Peterson Young (IN)
 Hensarling Pittenger Zeldin
 Herrera Beutler Pitts Zinke

NOT VOTING—6

Ellison Marino Poe (TX)
 Hastings Pearce Takai

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
 There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1317

So the amendment was rejected.
 The result of the vote was announced
 as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 102 OFFERED BY MR.

LOWENTHAL

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
 business is the demand for a recorded
 vote on the amendment offered by the
 gentleman from California (Mr.
 LOWENTHAL) on which further pro-
 ceedings were postponed and on which
 the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
 amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
 ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
 has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic de-
 vice, and there were—ayes 192, noes 233,
 not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 471]

AYES—192

Adams Gallego Neal
 Aguilari Garamendi Nolan
 Ashford Gibson Norcross
 Bass Graham O'Rourke
 Beatty Grayson Pallone
 Becerra Green, Al Pascrell
 Bera Green, Gene Payne
 Beyer Grijalva Pelosi
 Blumenauer Gutierrez Perlmutter
 Bonamici Hahn Heck (WA)
 Boyle, Brendan F. Higgins
 Brady (PA) Brown (FL) Himes
 Brown (FL) Brownley (CA) Hinojosa
 Bustos Honda
 Butterfield Hoyer
 Capps Huffman
 Capuano Israel
 Cárdenas Jackson Lee
 Carney Jeffries
 Carson (IN) Johnson (GA)
 Cartwright Johnson, E. B.
 Castor (FL) Jolly
 Castro (TX) Kaptur
 Chu, Judy Keating
 Cicilline Kelly (IL)
 Clark (MA) Kennedy
 Clarke (NY) Kildee
 Clay Kilmer
 Cleaver Kind
 Clyburn Kirkpatrick
 Cohen Kuster
 Connolly Langevin
 Conyers Larsen (WA)
 Cooper Larson (CT)
 Costa Lawrence
 Costello (PA) Lee
 Courtney Levin
 Crowley Lewis
 Cummings Lieu, Ted
 Curbelo (FL) Lipinski
 Davis (CA) Loeb sack
 Davis, Danny Lofgren
 DeFazio Lowenthal
 DeGette Lowey
 Delaney Lujan Grisham
 DeLauro (NM)
 DelBene Luján, Ben Ray
 DeSaulnier (NM)
 Deutch Lynch
 Dingell Maloney,
 Doggett Carolyn
 Dold Maloney, Sean
 Doyle, Michael Matsui
 F. McCollum
 Duckworth McDermott
 Edwards McGovern
 Engel McNeerney
 Eshoo Meehan
 Esty Meeks
 Farr Meng
 Fitzpatrick Moore
 Foster Moulton
 Frankel (FL) Murphy (FL)
 Fudge Nadler
 Gabbard Napolitano

NOES—233

Abraham Bishop (UT)
 Aderholt Black
 Allen Blackburn
 Amash Blum
 Amodei Bost
 Babin Boustany
 Barletta Brat
 Barr Bridenstine
 Barton Brooks (AL)
 Benishek Brooks (IN)
 Bishop (GA) Buchanan
 Bishop (MI) Buck

Collins (NY) Johnson (OH) Renacci
 Comstock Johnson, Sam Ribble
 Conaway Jones Rice (SC)
 Cook Jordan Rigell
 Cramer Joyce Roby
 Crawford Katko Roe (TN)
 Crenshaw Kelly (MS) Rogers (AL)
 Cuellar Kelly (PA) Rogers (KY)
 Culberson King (IA) Rohrabacher
 Davidson King (NY) Rokita
 Davis, Rodney Kinzinger (IL) Rooney (FL)
 Denham Kline Roskam
 Dent Knight Ross
 DeSantis Labrador Rothfus
 DesJarlais LaHood Rouzer
 Diaz-Balart LaMalfa Royce
 Donovan Lamborn Russell
 Duffy Lance Salmon
 Duncan (SC) Latta Sanford
 Duncan (TN) LoBiondo Scalise
 Ellmers (NC) Long Schweikert
 Emmer (MN) Loudermilk Scott, Austin
 Farenthold Love Sensenbrenner
 Fincher Lucas Sessions
 Fleischmann Luetkemeyer Shimkus
 Fleming Lummis Shuster
 Flores MacArthur Simpson
 Forbes Marchant Smith (MO)
 Fortenberry Massie Smith (NE)
 Foss Fox McCarthy Smith (NJ)
 Franks (AZ) McCaul Smith (TX)
 Frelinghuysen McClintock Stewart
 Garrett McHenry Stivers
 Gibbs McKinley Stutzman
 Gohmert McMorris Thompson (PA)
 Goodlatte Rodgers Thornberry
 Gosar McSally Tiberi
 Gowdy Meadows Tipton
 Granger Messer Trott
 Graves (GA) Mica Turner
 Graves (LA) Miller (FL) Upton
 Graves (MO) Miller (MI) Valadao
 Griffith Moolenaar Wagner
 Grothman Mooney (WV) Walberg
 Guinta Mullin Walden
 Guthrie Mulvaney Walker
 Hardy Murphy (PA) Walorski
 Harper Neugebauer Walters, Mimi
 Harris Newhouse Wehber (TX)
 Hartzler Heck (NV) Noem Webster (FL)
 Heck (NV) Nugent Wenstrup
 Hensarling Nunes Westerman
 Herrera Beutler Herrera Beutler Westmoreland
 Hill Hice, Jody B. Whitfield
 Holding Hill Palmer Williams
 Hudson Paulsen Wilson (SC)
 Huelskamp Perry Wittman
 Huizenga (MI) Peterson Womack
 Hultgren Pittenger Woodall
 Hunter Poliquin Yoder
 Hurd (TX) Pompeo Yoho
 Hurt (VA) Pompeo Young (AK)
 Issa Price, Tom Young (IA)
 Jenkins (KS) Ratcliffe Young (IN)
 Jenkins (WV) Reed Zeldin
 Zinke

NOT VOTING—8

Bilirakis Hastings Poe (TX)
 Brady (TX) Marino Takai
 Ellison Pearce

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
 There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1320

So the amendment was rejected.
 The result of the vote was announced
 as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 103 OFFERED BY MR. POCAN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
 business is the demand for a recorded
 vote on the amendment offered by the
 gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN)
 on which further proceedings were
 postponed and on which the noes pre-
 vailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
 amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
 ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 191, noes 236, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 472]

AYES—191

Adams	Gabbard	Napolitano
Aguilar	Gallego	Neal
Ashford	Garamendi	Nolan
Bass	Gibson	Norcross
Beatty	Graham	O'Rourke
Becerra	Grayson	Pallone
Bera	Green, Al	Pascrell
Beyer	Green, Gene	Payne
Blumenauer	Grijalva	Pelosi
Bonamici	Gutiérrez	Perlmutter
Boyle, Brendan	Hahn	Peters
F.	Heck (WA)	Pingree
Brady (PA)	Higgins	Pocan
Brown (FL)	Himes	Polis
Brownley (CA)	Hinojosa	Price (NC)
Bustos	Honda	Quigley
Butterfield	Hoyer	Rangel
Capps	Huffman	Reichert
Capuano	Israel	Rice (NY)
Cárdenas	Jackson Lee	Richmond
Carney	Jeffries	Ros-Lehtinen
Carson (IN)	Johnson (GA)	Roybal-Allard
Cartwright	Johnson, E. B.	Ruiz
Castor (FL)	Jolly	Ruppersberger
Castro (TX)	Kaptur	Rush
Chu, Judy	Keating	Ryan (OH)
Ciциlline	Kelly (IL)	Sánchez, Linda
Clark (MA)	Kennedy	T.
Clarke (NY)	Kildee	Sanchez, Loretta
Clay	Kilmer	Sarbanes
Cleaver	Kind	Schakowsky
Clyburn	Kirkpatrick	Schiff
Cohen	Kuster	Schrader
Connolly	Langevin	Scott (VA)
Conyers	Larsen (WA)	Scott, David
Cooper	Larson (CT)	Serrano
Costa	Lawrence	Sewell (AL)
Costello (PA)	Lee	Sherman
Courtney	Levin	Sinema
Crowley	Lewis	Sires
Cummings	Lieu, Ted	Slaughter
Curbelo (FL)	Lipinski	Smith (WA)
Davis (CA)	Loebback	Speier
Davis, Danny	Lofgren	Stefanik
DeFazio	Lowenthal	Swalwell (CA)
DeGette	Lowe	Takano
Delaney	Lujan Grisham	Thompson (CA)
DeLauro	(NM)	Thompson (MS)
DelBene	Luján, Ben Ray	Titus
DeSaulnier	(NM)	Tonko
Deutch	Lynch	Torres
Dingell	Maloney,	Tsongas
Doggett	Carolyn	Van Hollen
Dold	Maloney, Sean	Vargas
Doyle, Michael	Matsui	Veasey
F.	McCullum	Vela
Duckworth	McDermott	Velázquez
Edwards	McGovern	Visclosky
Engel	McNerney	Walz
Eshoo	Meehan	Wasserman
Esty	Meeks	Schultz
Farr	Meng	Waters, Maxine
Fitzpatrick	Moore	Watson Coleman
Foster	Moulton	Welch
Frankel (FL)	Murphy (FL)	Wilson (FL)
Fudge	Nadler	Yarmuth

NOES—236

Abraham	Blum	Chabot
Aderholt	Bost	Chaffetz
Allen	Boustany	Clawson (FL)
Amash	Brady (TX)	Coffman
Amodel	Brat	Cole
Babin	Bridenstine	Collins (GA)
Barletta	Brooks (AL)	Collins (NY)
Barr	Brooks (IN)	Comstock
Barton	Buchanan	Conaway
Benishek	Buck	Cook
Bilirakis	Bucshon	Cramer
Bishop (GA)	Burgess	Crawford
Bishop (MI)	Byrne	Crenshaw
Bishop (UT)	Calvert	Cuellar
Black	Carter (GA)	Culberson
Blackburn	Carter (TX)	Davidson

Davis, Rodney	Kelly (MS)	Rigell
Denham	Kelly (PA)	Roby
Dent	King (IA)	Roe (TN)
DeSantis	King (NY)	Rogers (AL)
DesJarlais	Kinzinger (IL)	Rogers (KY)
Diaz-Balart	Kline	Rohrabacher
Donovan	Knight	Rokita
Duffy	Labrador	Rooney (FL)
Duncan (SC)	LaHood	Roskam
Duncan (TN)	LaMalfa	Ross
Ellmers (NC)	Lamborn	Rothfus
Emmer (MN)	Lance	Rouzer
Farenthold	Latta	Royce
Fincher	LoBiondo	Russell
Fleischmann	Long	Salmon
Fleming	Loudermilk	Sanford
Flores	Love	Scalise
Forbes	Lucas	Schweikert
Fortenberry	Luetkemeyer	Scott, Austin
Fox	Lummis	Sensenbrenner
Franks (AZ)	MacArthur	Sessions
Frelinghuysen	Marchant	Shimkus
Garrett	Massie	Shuster
Gibbs	McCarthy	Simpson
Gohmert	McCaul	Smith (MO)
Goodlatte	McClintock	Smith (NE)
Gosar	McHenry	Smith (NJ)
Gowdy	McKinley	Smith (TX)
Granger	McMorris	Stewart
Graves (GA)	Rodgers	Stivers
Graves (LA)	McSally	Stutzman
Graves (MO)	Meadows	Thompson (PA)
Griffith	Messer	Thornberry
Grothman	Mica	Tiberi
Guinta	Miller (FL)	Tipton
Guthrie	Miller (MI)	Trott
Hanna	Moolenaar	Turner
Hardy	Mooney (WV)	Upton
Harper	Mullin	Valadao
Harris	Mulvaney	Wagner
Hartzler	Murphy (PA)	Walberg
Heck (NV)	Neugebauer	Walden
Hensarling	Newhouse	Walker
Herrera Beutler	Noem	Walorski
Hice, Jody B.	Nugent	Walters, Mimi
Hill	Nunes	Weber (TX)
Holding	Olson	Webster (FL)
Hudson	Palazzo	Wenstrup
Huelskamp	Palmer	Westerman
Huizenga (MI)	Paulsen	Westmoreland
Hultgren	Perry	Whitfield
Hunter	Peterson	Williams
Hurd (TX)	Pittenger	Wilson (SC)
Hurt (VA)	Pitts	Wittman
Issa	Poliquin	Womack
Jenkins (KS)	Pompeo	Woodall
Jenkins (WV)	Posey	Yoder
Johnson (OH)	Price, Tom	Yoho
Johnson, Sam	Ratcliffe	Young (AK)
Jones	Reed	Young (IA)
Jordan	Renacci	Young (IN)
Joyce	Ribble	Zeldin
Katko	Rice (SC)	Zinke

NOT VOTING—6

Ellison	Marino	Poe (TX)
Hastings	Pearce	Takai

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1323

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:
Mr. HANNA. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 472, I mistakenly voted against the Pocan of Wisconsin Amendment No. 103 to H.R. 5538, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

AMENDMENT NO. 104 OFFERED BY MR. POLIS
The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.
The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 188, noes 239, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 473]

AYES—188

Adams	Fudge	Nadler
Aguilar	Gabbard	Napolitano
Ashford	Gallego	Neal
Bass	Garamendi	Nolan
Beatty	Graham	Norcross
Becerra	Grayson	O'Rourke
Bera	Green, Al	Pallone
Beyer	Green, Gene	Pascrell
Blumenauer	Grijalva	Payne
Bonamici	Gutiérrez	Pelosi
Boyle, Brendan	Hahn	Perlmutter
F.	Heck (WA)	Peters
Brady (PA)	Higgins	Pingree
Brown (FL)	Himes	Pocan
Brownley (CA)	Hinojosa	Polis
Bustos	Honda	Price (NC)
Butterfield	Hoyer	Quigley
Capps	Huffman	Rangel
Capuano	Israel	Rice (NY)
Cárdenas	Jackson Lee	Richmond
Carney	Jeffries	Roybal-Allard
Carson (IN)	Johnson (GA)	Ruiz
Cartwright	Johnson, E. B.	Ruppersberger
Castor (FL)	Kaptur	Rush
Castro (TX)	Katko	Ryan (OH)
Chu, Judy	Keating	Sánchez, Linda
Ciциlline	Kelly (IL)	T.
Clark (MA)	Kennedy	Sanchez, Loretta
Clark (NY)	Kildee	Sarbanes
Clarke (NY)	Kilmer	Schakowsky
Cleaver	Kind	Schiff
Clyburn	Kirkpatrick	Schrader
Cohen	Kuster	Scott (VA)
Connolly	Langevin	Scott, David
Conyers	Larsen (WA)	Serrano
Cooper	Larson (CT)	Sewell (AL)
Costa	Lawrence	Sherman
Costello (PA)	Lee	Sinema
Courtney	Levin	Sires
Crowley	Lewis	Slaughter
Cuellar	Lieu, Ted	Smith (WA)
Cummings	Lipinski	Speier
Davis (CA)	Loebback	Swalwell (CA)
Davis, Danny	Lofgren	Takano
DeFazio	Lowenthal	Thompson (CA)
DeGette	Lowe	Thompson (MS)
Delaney	Lujan Grisham	Titus
DeLauro	(NM)	Tonko
DelBene	Luján, Ben Ray	Torres
DeSaulnier	(NM)	Tsongas
Deutch	Lynch	Van Hollen
Dingell	Maloney,	Vargas
Doggett	Carolyn	Veasey
Dold	Maloney, Sean	Vela
Doyle, Michael	Matsui	Velázquez
F.	McCullum	Visclosky
Duckworth	McDermott	Walz
Edwards	McGovern	Wasserman
Engel	McNerney	Schultz
Eshoo	Meehan	Waters, Maxine
Esty	Meeks	Watson Coleman
Farr	Meng	Welch
Fitzpatrick	Moore	Wilson (FL)
Foster	Moulton	Yarmuth
Frankel (FL)	Murphy (FL)	Zinke

NOES—239

Abraham	Black	Byrne
Aderholt	Blackburn	Calvert
Allen	Blum	Carter (GA)
Amash	Bost	Carter (TX)
Amodel	Boustany	Chabot
Babin	Brady (TX)	Chaffetz
Barletta	Brat	Clawson (FL)
Barr	Bridenstine	Coffman
Barton	Brooks (AL)	Cole
Benishek	Brooks (IN)	Collins (GA)
Bilirakis	Buchanan	Collins (NY)
Bishop (GA)	Buck	Comstock
Bishop (MI)	Bucshon	Conaway
Bishop (UT)	Burgess	Cook

Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam

NOT VOTING—6

Ellison
Hastings

Marino
Pearce

Poe (TX)
Takai

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1327

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 106 OFFERED BY MS. TSONGAS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
business is the demand for a recorded
vote on the amendment offered by the
gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms.
TSONGAS) on which further proceedings
were postponed and on which the noes
prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.
The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
vice, and there were—ayes 184, noes 241,
not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 474]

AYES—184

Adams
Aguilar
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fitzpatrick
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard

NOES—241

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat

Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Lummis
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Perry
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita

NOT VOTING—8

DeFazio
Ellison
Hastings

Marino
Pearce
Poe (TX)

Takai
Veasey

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining on this
vote.

□ 1330

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 114 OFFERED BY MR. NORCROSS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
business is the demand for a recorded
vote on the amendment offered by the
gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NOR-
CROSS) on which further proceedings
were postponed and on which the noes
prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 195, noes 232, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 475]

AYES—195

Adams	Gibson	Neal
Aguilar	Graham	Nolan
Ashford	Grayson	Norcross
Bass	Green, Al	O'Rourke
Beatty	Green, Gene	Pallone
Becerra	Gutiérrez	Pascrell
Bera	Hahn	Payne
Beyer	Heck (WA)	Pelosi
Bishop (GA)	Higgins	Perlmutter
Bonamici	Himes	Peters
Bost	Hinojosa	Pingree
Boyle, Brendan F.	Honda	Pocan
Brady (PA)	Hoyer	Poliquin
Brown (FL)	Israel	Polis
Brownley (CA)	Jackson Lee	Price (NC)
Bustos	Jeffries	Quigley
Butterfield	Johnson (GA)	Rangel
Capps	Johnson, E. B.	Rice (NY)
Capuano	Jones	Richmond
Cárdenas	Kaptur	Royal-Allard
Carney	Keating	Ruiz
Carson (IN)	Kelly (IL)	Ruppersberger
Cartwright	Kennedy	Rush
Castor (FL)	Kildee	Ryan (OH)
Castro (TX)	Kilmer	Sánchez, Linda T.
Chu, Judy	Kind	Sanchez, Loretta
Cicilline	Kirkpatrick	Sarbanes
Clark (MA)	Kuster	Schakowsky
Clarke (NY)	Lance	Schiff
Clay	Langevin	Schrader
Cleaver	Larsen (WA)	Scott (VA)
Clyburn	Larson (CT)	Scott, David
Cohen	Lawrence	Serrano
Connolly	Lee	Sewell (AL)
Conyers	Levin	Sherman
Costello (PA)	Lewis	Sinema
Courtney	Lieu, Ted	Sires
Crowley	Lipinski	Slaughter
Cuellar	LoBiondo	Smith (MS)
Cummings	Loeback	Smith (NJ)
Davis (CA)	Lofgren	Smith (WA)
Davis, Danny	Lowenthal	Smith (IA)
DeFazio	Lowe	King (NY)
DeGette	Lujan Grisham	Kinzinger (IL)
Delaney	(NM)	King
DeLauro	Luján, Ben Ray	Roe (TN)
DelBene	(NM)	Rogers (AL)
DeSaulnier	Lynch	Rogers (KY)
Deutch	MacArthur	Rohrabacher
Dingell	Maloney,	Rokita
Doggett	Carolyn	
Doyle, Michael F.	Maloney, Sean	
Duckworth	Matsui	
Edwards	McCormack	
Engel	McDermott	
Eshoo	McGovern	
Esty	McKinley	
Farr	McNerney	
Fitzpatrick	Meehan	
Foster	Meeks	
Frankel (FL)	Meng	
Fudge	Moolenaar	
Gabbard	Moore	
Gallego	Moulton	
Garamendi	Gallego	
Garrett	Garamendi	

NOES—232

Abraham	Brooks (IN)	Crawford
Aderholt	Buchanan	Crenshaw
Allen	Buck	Culberson
Amash	Bucshon	Curbelo (FL)
Amodel	Burgess	Davidson
Babin	Byrne	Davis, Rodney
Barletta	Calvert	Denham
Barr	Carter (GA)	Dent
Barton	Carter (TX)	DeSantis
Benishek	Chabot	DesJarlais
Bilirakis	Chaffetz	Diaz-Balart
Bishop (MI)	Clawson (FL)	Dold
Bishop (UT)	Coffman	Donovan
Black	Cole	Duffy
Blackburn	Collins (GA)	Duncan (SC)
Blum	Collins (NY)	Duncan (TN)
Blumenauer	Comstock	Ellmers (NC)
Boustany	Conaway	Emmer (MN)
Brady (TX)	Cook	Farenthold
Brat	Cooper	Fincher
Bridenstine	Costa	Fleischmann
Brooks (AL)	Cramer	Fleming

Flores	LaMalfa	Rooney (FL)
Forbes	Lamborn	Ros-Lehtinen
Fortenberry	Latta	Roskam
Fox	Long	Ross
Franks (AZ)	Loudermill	Rothfus
Frelinghuysen	Love	Rouzer
Gibbs	Lucas	Royce
Gohmert	Luetkemeyer	Russell
Goodlatte	Lummis	Salmon
Gosar	Marchant	Sanford
Gowdy	Massie	Scalise
Granger	McCarthy	Schweikert
Graves (GA)	McCaul	Scott, Austin
Graves (LA)	McHenry	Sensenbrenner
Graves (MO)	McClintock	Sessions
Griffith	McMorris	Shimkus
Grijalva	Rodgers	Shuster
Grothman	McSally	Simpson
Guinta	Meadows	Smith (MO)
Guthrie	Messer	Smith (NE)
Hanna	Mica	Smith (TX)
Hardy	Miller (FL)	Stewart
Harper	Miller (MI)	Stivers
Harris	Mooney (WV)	Stutzman
Hartzler	Mullin	Thompson (PA)
Heck (NV)	Mulvaney	Thornberry
Hensarling	Murphy (PA)	Tiberi
Herrera Beutler	Neugebauer	Tipton
Hice, Jody B.	Newhouse	Trott
Hill	Noem	Turner
Holding	Nugent	Upton
Hudson	Nunes	Valadao
Huelskamp	Olson	Wagner
Huizenga (MI)	Palazzo	Walberg
Hultgren	Palmer	Walder
Hunter	Paulsen	Walker
Hurd (TX)	Perry	Walorski
Hurt (VA)	Peterson	Walters, Mimi
Issa	Pittenger	Weber (TX)
Jenkins (KS)	Pitts	Webster (FL)
Jenkins (WV)	Pompeo	Wenstrup
Johnson (OH)	Posey	Westerman
Johnson, Sam	Price, Tom	Westmoreland
Jolly	Ratcliffe	Whitfield
Jordan	Reed	Williams
Joyce	Reichert	Wilson (SC)
Katko	Renacci	Wittman
Kelly (MS)	Ribble	Womack
Kelly (PA)	Rice (SC)	Woodall
King (IA)	Rigell	Yoder
King (NY)	Roby	Yoho
Kinzinger (IL)	Roe (TN)	Young (AK)
Kline	Rogers (AL)	Young (IA)
Knight	Rogers (KY)	Young (IN)
Labrador	Rohrabacher	Zeldin
LaHood	Rokita	

NOT VOTING—6

Ellison
Hastings
Marino
Pearce
Poe (TX)
Takai

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1335

Messrs. CONNOLLY, POLIQUIN, and ENGEL changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”
So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 122 OFFERED BY MR. GALLEGO
The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.
The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.
The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.
A recorded vote was ordered.
The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 213, noes 214, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 476]

AYES—213

Adams	Garamendi	Neal
Aguilar	Gibson	Neugebauer
Bass	Graham	Nolan
Beatty	Graves (LA)	Norcross
Becerra	Grayson	O'Rourke
Bera	Green, Al	Pallone
Beyer	Green, Gene	Pascrell
Bishop (GA)	Grijalva	Paulsen
Bishop (MI)	Gutiérrez	Payne
Blumenauer	Hahn	Pelosi
Bonamici	Hanna	Perlmutter
Boyle, Brendan F.	Hardy	Peters
Brady (PA)	Heck (WA)	Pingree
Brown (FL)	Higgins	Pocan
Brownley (CA)	Hill	Polis
Buchanan	Himes	Price (NC)
Bustos	Hinojosa	Quigley
Butterfield	Holding	Rangel
Capps	Honda	Rice (NY)
Capuano	Hoyer	Richmond
Cárdenas	Huffman	Rohrabacher
Carney	Israel	Ros-Lehtinen
Carson (IN)	Jackson Lee	Roskam
Cartwright	Jeffries	Royal-Allard
Castor (FL)	Johnson (GA)	Ruiz
Castro (TX)	Johnson, E. B.	Ruppersberger
Chu, Judy	Jolly	Rush
Cicilline	Jones	Ryan (OH)
Clark (MA)	Kaptur	Sánchez, Linda T.
Clarke (NY)	Katko	Sanchez, Loretta
Clay	Keating	Sanford
Cleaver	Kelly (IL)	Sarbanes
Clyburn	Kennedy	Schakowsky
Cohen	Kildee	Schiff
Connolly	Kilmer	Schrader
Conyers	Kind	Scott (VA)
Costello (PA)	Kirkpatrick	Scott, David
Courtney	Kline	Serrano
Crowley	Kuster	Sewell (AL)
Cuellar	Lance	Sherman
Cummings	Langevin	Sinema
Davis (CA)	Larsen (WA)	Sires
Davis, Danny	Larson (CT)	Slaughter
DeFazio	Lawrence	Smith (NJ)
DeGette	Lee	Smith (WA)
Delaney	Levin	Speier
DeLauro	Lewis	Stefanik
DelBene	Lieu, Ted	Swalwell (CA)
DeSaulnier	Lipinski	Takano
Deutch	LoBiondo	Thompson (CA)
Dingell	Loeback	Thompson (MS)
Doggett	Lofgren	Titus
Doyle, Michael F.	Lowenthal	Tonko
Duckworth	Lowe	Torres
Edwards	Lujan Grisham	Trott
Engel	(NM)	Trout
Eshoo	Luján, Ben Ray	Van Hollen
Esty	(NM)	Vargas
Farr	Lynch	Veasey
Fitzpatrick	Maloney,	Velázquez
Foster	Carolyn	Visclosky
Frankel (FL)	Maloney, Sean	Walz
Fudge	Matsui	Wasserman
Gabbard	McCormack	Schultz
Gallego	McDermott	Waters, Maxine
Garamendi	McGovern	Watson Coleman
Garrett	McNerney	Welch
	Meeks	Whitfield
	Meng	Wilson (FL)
	Moore	Yarmuth
	Moulton	Yoder
	Murphy (FL)	
	Nadler	
	Napolitano	

NOES—214

Abraham	Bost	Clawson (FL)
Aderholt	Boustany	Coffman
Allen	Brady (TX)	Cole
Amash	Brat	Collins (GA)
Amodel	Bridenstine	Collins (NY)
Ashford	Brooks (AL)	Comstock
Babin	Brooks (IN)	Conaway
Barletta	Buck	Cook
Barr	Bucshon	Cramer
Barton	Burgess	Crawford
Benishek	Byrne	Cuellar
Bilirakis	Calvert	Culberson
Bishop (UT)	Carter (GA)	Davidson
Black	Carter (TX)	Denham
Blackburn	Chabot	DeSantis
Blum	Chaffetz	DesJarlais

Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Knight

Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Perry
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby

Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Salmon
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoho

5538) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 820, he reported the bill back to the House with sundry amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

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

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

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

Under clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on passage of H.R. 5538 will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of H.R. 4992.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 231, noes 196, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 477]

YEAS—231

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (IN)
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costa
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais

Paulsen
Perry
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus

NAYS—196

Adams
Aguilar
Amash
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brooks (AL)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fitzpatrick
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)

NOT VOTING—6
Ellison
Hastings

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1341

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Messrs. GOSAR, VALADAO, RICE of South Carolina, and ROHRABACHER changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Mr. RYAN of Ohio changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the last three lines of the bill.

The Clerk read as follows:

This Act may be cited as the “Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017”.

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois) having assumed the chair, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R.

NOT VOTING—6

Ellison Marino Poe (TX)
Hastings Pearce Takai

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

1350

Mr. VARGAS changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 477, on passage of H.R. 5538, I am not recorded because I was representing constituents on business outside of Washington, D.C. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

UNITED STATES FINANCIAL SYSTEM PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 4992) to codify regulations relating to transfers of funds involving Iran, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 246, nays 181, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 478]

YEAS—246

Abraham Crawford Hanna
Aderholt Crenshaw Hardy
Allen Culberson Harper
Amash Curbelo (FL) Harris
Amodei Davidson Hartzler
Ashford Davis, Rodney Heck (NV)
Babin Denham Hensarling
Barletta Dent Herrera Beutler
Barr DeSantis Hice, Jody B.
Barton DesJarlais Hill
Benishkek Diaz-Balart Holding
Bilirakis Dold Hudson
Bishop (MI) Donovan Huelskamp
Bishop (UT) Duffy Huizenga (MI)
Black Duncan (SC) Hultgren
Blackburn Ellmers (NC) Hunter
Blum Emmer (MN) Hurd (TX)
Bost Farenthold Hurt (VA)
Boustany Fincher Issa
Brady (TX) Fitzpatrick Jenkins (KS)
Brat Fleischmann Jenkins (WV)
Bridenstine Fleming Johnson (OH)
Brooks (AL) Flores Johnson, Sam
Brooks (IN) Forbes Jolly
Buchanan Fortenberry Jordan
Buck Foxx Joyce
Bucshon Franks (AZ) Katko
Burgess Frelinghuysen Kelly (MS)
Byrne Garrett Kelly (PA)
Calvert Gibbs King (IA)
Carter (GA) Gibson King (NY)
Carter (TX) Gohmert Kinzinger (IL)
Chabot Goodlatte Kline
Chaffetz Gosar Knight
Clawson (FL) Gowdy Labrador
Coffman Graham LaHood
Cole Granger LaMalfa
Collins (GA) Graves (GA) Lamborn
Collins (NY) Graves (LA) Lance
Comstock Graves (MO) Latta
Conaway Griffith LoBiondo
Cook Grothman Long
Costello (PA) Guinta Loudermilk
Cramer Guthrie Love

Lucas Luetkemeyer
Lummis Ratcliffe
MacArthur Reed
Marchant Reichert
McCarthy Renacci
McCaul Ribble
McClintock Rice (SC)
McHenry Rigell
McKinley Roby
McMorris Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
McSally Rogers (KY)
Meadows Rohrabacher
Meehan Rokita
Messer Rooney (FL)
Mica Ros-Lehtinen
Miller (FL) Roskam
Miller (MI) Ross
Moolenaar Rothfus
Mooney (WV) Rouzer
Mullin Royce
Mulvaney Russell
Murphy (PA) Salmon
Neugebauer Sanford
Newhouse Scalise
Noem Schweikert
Nugent Scott, Austin
Nunes Sensenbrenner
Olson Sessions
Palazzo Sherman
Palmer Shimkus
Paulsen Shuster
Perry Simpson
Peterson Smith (MO)
Pittenger Smith (NE)
Pitts Smith (NJ)
Poliquin Smith (TX)
Pompeo Stefanik

NAYS—181

Adams Eshoo
Aguilar Esty
Bass Farr
Beatty Foster
Becerra Frankel (FL)
Bera Fudge
Beyer Gabbard
Bishop (GA) Gallego
Blumenauer Garamendi
Bonamici Grayson
Boyle, Brendan Green, Al
F. Green, Gene
Brady (PA) Grijalva
Brown (FL) Gutiérrez
Brownley (CA) Hahn
Bustos Heck (WA)
Butterfield Higgins
Capps Himes
Capuano Hinojosa
Cárdenas Honda
Carney Hoyer
Carter (IN) Huffman
Cartwright Israel
Castor (FL) Jackson Lee
Castro (TX) Jeffries
Chu, Judy Johnson (GA)
Cicilline Johnson, E. B.
Clark (MA) Jones
Clarke (NY) Kaptur
Clay Keating
Cleaver Kelly (LL)
Clyburn Kennedy
Cohen Kildee
Connolly Kilmer
Conyers Kind
Cooper Kirkpatrick
Costa Kuster
Courtney Langevin
Crowley Larsen (WA)
Cuellar Larson (CT)
Cummings Lawrence
Davis (CA) Lee
Davis, Danny Levin
DeFazio Lewis
DeGette Lieu, Ted
Delaney Lipinski
DeLauro Loeb sack
DelBene Lofgren
DeSaulnier Lowenthal
Deutch Lowey
Dingell Lujan Grisham
Doggett (NM)
Doyle, Michael Lujan, Ben Ray
F. (NM)
Duckworth Lynch
Duncan (TN) Maloney,
Edwards Carolyn
Engel Maloney, Sean

Stewart Stivers
Stutzman Thompson (PA)
Thornberry Tiberi
Tipton Trott
Turner Upton
Roby Valadao
Vargas Vela
Wagner Vela
Walberg Walden
Walker Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup Westerman
Westmoreland Whitfield
Williams Wilson (SC)
Wittman Womack
Woodall Yoder
Yoho Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin Zinke

Torres Visclosky
Tsongas Walz
Van Hollen Wasserman
Veasey Schultz
Velázquez Waters, Maxine

Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—6

Ellison Marino Poe (TX)
Hastings Pearce Takai

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

1357

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York changed her vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SOUND RECORDING AND FILM PRESERVATION PROGRAMS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2016

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table the bill (S. 2893) to reauthorize the sound recording and film preservation programs of the Library of Congress, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2893

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 “Library of Congress Sound Recording and Film Preservation Programs Reauthorization Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. SOUND RECORDING PRESERVATION PROGRAMS.

(a) NATIONAL RECORDING PRESERVATION BOARD.—Section 133 of the National Recording Preservation Act of 2000 (2 U.S.C. 1743) is amended by striking “through fiscal year 2016” and inserting “through fiscal year 2026”.

(b) NATIONAL RECORDING PRESERVATION FOUNDATION.—

(1) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 152411(a) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking “through fiscal year 2016 an amount not to exceed” and inserting “through fiscal year 2026 an amount not to exceed the lesser of \$1,000,000 or”.

(2) NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—Section 152403(b)(2) of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “nine directors” and inserting “12 directors”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “six directors” each place it appears and inserting “8 directors”.

SEC. 3. FILM PRESERVATION PROGRAMS.

(a) NATIONAL FILM PRESERVATION BOARD.—Section 112 of the National Film Preservation Act of 1996 (2 U.S.C. 179v) is amended by striking “through fiscal year 2016” and inserting “through fiscal year 2026”.

(b) NATIONAL FILM PRESERVATION FOUNDATION.—Section 151711(a)(1)(C) of title 36,

United States Code, is amended by striking “through 2016” and inserting “through 2026”.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED TO PROVIDE PLAYBACK EQUIPMENT IN ALL FORMATS

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 3207) to authorize the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to provide playback equipment in all formats, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3207

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZING THE NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED TO PROVIDE PLAYBACK EQUIPMENT IN ALL FORMATS.

The first sentence of the Act entitled “An Act to provide books for the adult blind”, approved March 3, 1931 (2 U.S.C. 135a), is amended by striking “and for purchase, maintenance, and replacement of reproducers for such sound-reproduction recordings” and inserting “and for purchase, maintenance, and replacement of reproducers for any such forms”.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2016, TO MONDAY, JULY 18, 2016

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, July 18, 2016.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 4019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 4019.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1400

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DENTAL INSURANCE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2016

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 3055) a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a dental insurance plan to veterans and survivors and dependents of veterans, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3055

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Department of Veterans Affairs Dental Insurance Reauthorization Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. DENTAL INSURANCE PLAN FOR VETERANS AND SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS OF VETERANS.

(a) DENTAL INSURANCE PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1712B the following new section:

“§ 1712C. Dental insurance plan for veterans and survivors and dependents of veterans

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and administer a dental insurance plan for veterans and survivors and dependents of veterans described in subsection (b).

“(b) COVERED VETERANS AND SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS.—The veterans and survivors and dependents of veterans described in this subsection are as follows:

“(1) Any veteran who is enrolled in the system of annual patient enrollment under section 1705 of this title.

“(2) Any survivor or dependent of a veteran who is eligible for medical care under section 1781 of this title.

“(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall contract with a dental insurer to administer the dental insurance plan under this section.

“(d) BENEFITS.—The dental insurance plan under this section shall provide such benefits for dental care and treatment as the Secretary considers appropriate for the dental insurance plan, including diagnostic services, preventative services, endodontics and other restorative services, surgical services, and emergency services.

“(e) ENROLLMENT.—(1) Enrollment in the dental insurance plan under this section shall be voluntary.

“(2) Enrollment in the dental insurance plan shall be for such minimum period as the Secretary shall prescribe for purposes of this section.

“(f) PREMIUMS.—(1) Premiums for coverage under the dental insurance plan under this section shall be in such amount or amounts as the Secretary shall prescribe to cover all costs associated with carrying out this section.

“(2) The Secretary shall adjust the premiums payable under this section for coverage under the dental insurance plan on an annual basis. Each individual covered by the dental insurance plan at the time of such an adjustment shall be notified of the amount and effective date of such adjustment.

“(3) Each individual covered by the dental insurance plan shall pay the entire premium

for coverage under the dental insurance plan, in addition to the full cost of any copayments.

“(g) VOLUNTARY DISENROLLMENT.—(1) With respect to enrollment in the dental insurance plan under this section, the Secretary shall—

“(A) permit the voluntary disenrollment of an individual in the dental insurance plan if the disenrollment occurs during the 30-day period beginning on the date of the enrollment of the individual in the dental insurance plan; and

“(B) permit the voluntary disenrollment of an individual in the dental insurance plan for such circumstances as the Secretary shall prescribe for purposes of this subsection, but only to the extent such disenrollment does not jeopardize the fiscal integrity of the dental insurance plan.

“(2) The circumstances prescribed under paragraph (1)(B) shall include the following:

“(A) If an individual enrolled in the dental insurance plan relocates to a location outside the jurisdiction of the dental insurance plan that prevents use of the benefits under the dental insurance plan.

“(B) If an individual enrolled in the dental insurance plan is prevented by a serious medical condition from being able to obtain benefits under the dental insurance plan.

“(C) Such other circumstances as the Secretary shall prescribe for purposes of this subsection.

“(3) The Secretary shall establish procedures for determinations on the permissibility of voluntary disenrollments under paragraph (1)(B). Such procedures shall ensure timely determinations on the permissibility of such disenrollments.

“(h) RELATIONSHIP TO DENTAL CARE PROVIDED BY SECRETARY.—Nothing in this section shall affect the responsibility of the Secretary to provide dental care under section 1712 of this title, and the participation of an individual in the dental insurance plan under this section shall not affect the entitlement of the individual to outpatient dental services and treatment, and related dental appliances, under such section 1712.

“(i) REGULATIONS.—The dental insurance plan under this section shall be administered under such regulations as the Secretary shall prescribe.

“(j) TERMINATION.—This section terminates on December 31, 2021.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1712B the following new item:

“1712C. Dental insurance plan for veterans and survivors and dependents of veterans.”

(b) CONFORMING REPEAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 510 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–163; 38 U.S.C. 1712 note) is repealed.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 is amended by striking the item relating to section 510.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

115TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICA'S FIRST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Nation's very first public community college, Joliet Junior College, on its 115th anniversary.

Two Illinois community leaders, J. Stanley Brown and William Rainey Harper, founded the college in 1901 to provide high school graduates the fruits of higher education without forcing them to leave their communities. Over the next 20 years, JJC grew from 6 enrolled students to almost 100, and it later evolved its curriculum to include business, technological, and industrial education.

With the end of the wars, JJC and other 2-year institutions served vital educational roles for veterans who were returning to their communities. Joliet Junior College inspired an entirely new model for higher education, one that suited the needs of both the Nation and its citizens, one that allowed both flexibility and quality, and one that continues to be urgently relevant today.

Brown and Harper's vision of community-organized, community-focused education has since become a touchstone for millions of young American students. This year, the 14th District of Illinois honors Joliet Junior College for its pivotal role in the advancement of higher education in America.

DOING THE WORK OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, normally, I would be having a colloquy with the majority leader about the schedule for the week to come, but there is no schedule for the week to come, and there is no schedule for 6 weeks thereafter. We were scheduled to meet tomorrow to do the business of the American people. We will not meet that schedule, and we will not meet the schedule of doing the business of America for those who are concerned about the epidemic of gun violence in America, not even the small but meaningful and important steps of making sure that, if you can't fly, you can't buy a gun, to make sure that the background checks are universal and comprehensive so that dangerous people do not get guns.

We will not do the business of those who are confronting being bitten by a mosquito and having the risk of having a child who is deeply disabled, nor will we do the business of those thousands of children in Flint, Michigan, and of the people in Flint, Michigan, who still, 2 years later, do not have clean water to drink.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I sit here, ready to do the business of our country. We sit here, ready to address those critical public health issues that confront our country—of gun violence,

of Zika, of Flint, and of water that is not drinkable and that will damage our children.

Mr. Speaker, the American people will see that there is a party here that is willing to work and protect them every day; so my colleagues will, one after another, express their own views as to what this House ought to be doing.

We ought not to have taken a walk on the American people. We ought to be sitting here, doing the work of the American people. Yes, we will go to a convention, and we will tell them that we are going to protect them, that we are going to make their lives better. We can do so right here, right now.

COBRA ZONES

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

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, in 2012, constituents of mine, the Welberrys, purchased a home in Cedar Key, Florida. Two years later, their Federal flood insurance was canceled retroactively due to a determination that the property was partially located within a COBRA zone. For over 12 years, this property was zoned outside of the adjacent COBRA zone, and, for 12 years, it was covered by the Federal flood insurance.

Yet, as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife updates its maps, the Welberrys' entire retirement investment is threatened due to the government's inconsistency. The Welberrys' home did not move—just the map of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

Mrs. Welberry pleaded: The government cannot be allowed to erase our life savings like this.

If you want to talk about covering preexisting conditions, how many constituents are going through this nightmare?

Congress needs to know. Chairman CALVERT and the Appropriations Committee agree; and our amendment, which requires the U.S. Fish and Wildlife to conduct a study on how COBRA zones affect private property, was accepted last night. Congress needs to know.

A VOTE ON NO FLY, NO BUY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, Republican leaders are recessing the House for 7 weeks without their taking a single vote on legislation to help stop the mass gun violence that has become far too common in our country.

More than 30 people are killed every day by someone who uses a gun. Do the math. That means, by the time the House comes back from the summer recess, in 52 days, over 1,560 Americans may have been killed by someone who was using a gun.

We can't wait for more innocent lives to be cut short by someone using a gun. We need to vote on bipartisan, pro-Second Amendment no fly, no buy and comprehensive background check legislation to help keep guns away from those who shouldn't have them—terrorists, criminals, domestic abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill.

Mr. Speaker, it is wrong; it is irresponsible; it is dangerous to send us home without giving us a vote on this important bipartisan legislation. Give us a vote. Let us do the work that the American people sent us here to do.

HONORING MRS. JACK KOESTER

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge over 40 years of exceptional pro-life and pro-family efforts by Mrs. Jack Koester of Tetopolis, Illinois.

In June of 1973, a group of concerned residents came together to found the Effingham County Right. Mrs. Koester has served as the secretary of that group ever since.

As secretary, she has issued a monthly newsletter, has helped the organization grow through its breakfast and rummage sale, has hosted an annual day of prayer, has organized the Life Chain, has manned the pro-life booth, and has publicized the monthly prayer vigil. Mrs. Koester also cofounded the Family Life Center in Effingham 20 years ago.

After suffering a stroke last fall, she is still recovering and has shifted her focus to encouraging other citizens of the Effingham area to volunteer so as to carry on her pro-life efforts.

Mrs. Koester is a mother of 3, a grandmother of 10, and a great-grandmother of 2. One of her granddaughters is currently an intern in my office.

I want to personally thank Mrs. Koester for her lasting dedication to the pro-life movement, and I wish her the best in her ongoing recovery.

REPUBLICANS ABANDON AMERICANS

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today, the Republicans are leaving Washington for almost 2 months—the longest congressional summer recess in nearly 60 years—and are abandoning Americans, who are counting on us to do what we have to do to protect them.

There are serious public health crises in this country, and, right now, the GOP-led Congress continues to fail to do anything at all to protect the basic functions of government—to protect human life, to protect Americans.

Families in my own hometown of Flint, Michigan, today, can't drink their water. They don't have access to

clean drinking water. Rather than bringing up my bill, the Families of Flint Act, which would provide relief to those folks back home, who should be able to depend on their Federal Government when they are at their moment of greatest need, the Republican-led Congress is not only recessing but is recessing a day early—a day in which we could have taken up legislation to help the people of Flint. We could have taken up legislation to deal with the Zika virus. We could have taken up legislation for commonsense gun safety policy.

This is what the Congress is charged with doing. This is our job. We should be here on the floor of the House doing it. I am pleased to be here with my colleagues, who are ready to go to work in order to deal with these big problems that our country faces.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN FOREST FOUNDATION

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry, I was proud to join with a bipartisan group of my House colleagues yesterday in introducing H. Con. Res. 144, recognizing the 75th anniversary of the American Tree Farm System.

The American Tree Farm System is operated by the American Forest Foundation. It is the largest and oldest sustainable forestry program for forest owners. The program was created in 1941 in order to engage and support landowners to ensure the health and safety of the forests, especially in facing wildfires in the Western States.

This resolution commends the work of tree farmers and volunteers across the Nation who have participated in the program over the past 75 years, especially their investments in time, manpower, and personal funds to further sustainable forestry practices.

Mr. Speaker, family forest owners own the largest share of forests in the United States. These forests provide for Americans well beyond their properties, as they help to maintain clean water, clean air, wood supply, wildlife habitat, jobs, and recreational opportunities. Programs such as the American Tree Farm System help these forest owners continue to steward our lands and protect those benefits.

ZIKA-RELATED MICROCEPHALY CASE IN HARRIS COUNTY

(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, Zika is here, and Congress is not doing its job.

Yesterday, health officials in Houston, Harris County, Texas, diagnosed

an infant with microcephaly, which is a birth defect that causes a severe underdevelopment of the brain and a long list of health problems. This is the first documented case of Zika-related microcephaly in Texas. Unfortunately, it is one of the many tragedies that will continue if we fail to act.

Zika poses a grave and unprecedented threat to our public health. It is time Congress fulfills its constitutional and moral duty to protect the health and welfare of our people. It is an appalling disservice to the American people that we are not yet providing resources to combat this virus.

Congress' reluctance to provide funding is attributed to a distorted sense of fiscal responsibility. The fact of the matter is that their reluctance is putting the health and lives of the American people at risk, and inaction now will only be more costly in the long run. We are delaying medical research for a cure for Zika. We are delaying funding for our communities to fight Zika. We need to work with a sense of responsibility for the health and welfare of our Nation and approve the funds that are necessary to prevent Zika from spreading in our country.

HONORING UTAH'S OLYMPIANS

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

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor all Olympians but, especially, the Olympians who are heading to Rio from my home State of Utah.

My family and I hardly ever watch TV. We have lost the remote control for months at a time and no one has really cared, but, every 4 years, we do look forward to watching the Olympic Games on television. Part of the reason it is fun for us is that we realize the enormous commitment, strength, and courage it takes to become an Olympic athlete, and we realize the endless hours of training and sacrifice that will, hopefully, lead to their success.

I am extremely proud of the Utahns who have earned their spot on Team USA: Devery Karz for rowing, Jared Ward for track and field, and Jake Gibb for volleyball. Others will be added to the Olympic team in the next few weeks.

We should all look to these Olympians as examples of hard work and dedication. They may not be guaranteed medals in Rio, but to all of us Americans, to Utahns, and others, we view them as champions. I wish them all good luck, and I wish them success and safety. My family and I will find the remote control, and we will be cheering for them this summer.

□ 1415

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is sad that people are leaving this Chamber with much unfinished business, such as action on Zika, threats to drinking water, and the most important for me is the failure to take any action to stem the epidemic of gun violence that takes three to four Americans' lives every hour.

Whether it is from domestic violence, mass shootings like in Orlando or Dallas, suicide, there are multiple causes, but there are things we can do to make a difference.

There ought to be no more anonymous gun purchases. We need universal background checks. People who are too dangerous to buy a plane ticket should not be able to buy an assault weapon. And the outrageous prohibition that Congress has on doing research from the CDC on gun violence ought to be abolished.

These provisions are overwhelmingly supported by the American public and, indeed, gun owners themselves. There is no excuse for us leaving early today, for us to be gone tomorrow, for us to be gone for the next 7 weeks.

Maybe the people who are getting out of town should just be gone from the next Congress.

A BETTER WAY

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend my colleagues in the House for passing the Zika bill and sending it to the Senate, and I hope that the Senate Democrats will at sometime put that bill on the President's desk.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise today as an advocate for "A Better Way." This blueprint put forth by Speaker RYAN and my colleagues in the House Republican Conference is our vision for a more confident America.

We have a framework that is a better way to free millions from poverty, a better way to make America strong and safe, a better way to create an environment for Americans of all walks to experience true economic growth and opportunity, a better way to govern by returning to the rule of law outlined in our Constitution, a better way to lead healthy and productive lives by replacing a failing ObamaCare with a healthcare system that works for the American people, and a better way to pay for essential government services by creating a simpler, fairer Tax Code.

As we dream of an America with a future that outshines our blessed past, I urge my colleagues to embrace this vision, work to see its proposals implemented, and leave to our posterity evidence of our good stewardship of this most portentous responsibility.

INACTION

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission

to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, 7 weeks—52 days. I rise today to express my disappointment with our Republican colleagues for shutting down the Congress for the summer.

After the tragedies in Orlando and Dallas, are you telling me that we can't get together, that we cannot find a compromise on gun violence and gun control? The American people believe we can. They want it done.

Mr. Speaker, is there no action with respect to Flint, Michigan? So much of our infrastructure needs to be redone in so many cities. This is just the beginning of what we will see.

We have to address these national crises because working families all over the country will go to work tomorrow, and they will go to work on Saturday, and they will go to work on Sunday, and they will go to work for the next 7 weeks. They expect us to find solutions.

Mr. Speaker, let's get to work.

CONDOLENCES TO THE TURKISH PEOPLE

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my condolences to the people of Turkey following the horrific suicide attack at Ataturk International Airport on June 28. At least 44 innocent people were killed and more than 200 were wounded in the attack, including an American citizen.

Turkish police and first responders reacted swiftly and heroically and ought to be commended for their actions that prevented further loss of life.

Evidence has led officials to believe that the attack was carried out by ISIS militants, and the loss of innocent lives in Istanbul strengthens our shared resolve to defeat this terrorist organization and its affiliates.

I extend my sincere condolences to the Turkish people and to the vibrant Turkish American community as well as the families of those killed and those who suffered injury in the attack.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, Tuesday night, I joined my fellow Rhode Islander, Representative CICILLINE, at a vigil for the Pulse nightclub victims. On that night, we marked the 1-month anniversary of that tragic shooting with candles and with speeches.

But what we did not do, Mr. Speaker, is mark it with action. For that, I am profoundly sorry.

I am sorry that, despite our efforts, fear continues to rule this body. Re-

publican leaders' fear of the gun lobby is so powerful that they won't even allow a debate or a vote on proposals supported by over 80 percent of the American people for expanded background checks to keep guns out of the wrong hands or ensure that someone on a terrorist no-fly list can't buy a weapon.

Republicans won't allow a vote because they are afraid our commonsense proposals would pass and that they would be blamed for allowing a majority of the House to work its will, the will of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that we stop legislating from fear. It is time that we stop the silence in response to tragedy and uphold the commitments that we made to represent our constituents and to keep them safe.

While the majority may hope that, by retreating to their districts, they will be able to dodge this issue, rest assured, we will not let them do so.

We are not going away on this issue, Mr. Speaker. We are going to keep fighting for expanded background checks to keep guns out of the wrong hands, and we are going to keep fighting to ensure that someone on a terrorist no-fly list cannot buy a weapon.

MICHIGAN INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Michigan International Speedway, one of the Nation's premier racing facilities, located in my district in the heart of the Irish Hills.

Over the course of its 48-year history, Michigan International Speedway has become a staple of southeastern Michigan and a destination for tourists across the country. Having hosted NASCAR races, music festivals, charity events, and statewide fairs, MIS is a true year-round entertainment venue.

Through its charitable contributions and community efforts, MIS Cares has twice been named the NASCAR Foundation's track of the year.

The economic impact of the speedway on the region is strong, producing over 5,000 jobs and generating more than \$414 million in annual total economic activity.

As an innovative and diverse venue, I commend Michigan International Speedway for its many contributions to the community and for continuing to create lasting memories for every person every time.

CONGRESS DOES NOTHING

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, we saw children, 6-year-olds, murdered in their classroom. We saw young people who were dancing murdered. We saw

police officers murdered. What did we do? Nothing. We went home.

We saw children who were going to be infected with the Zika virus, and pregnant young women's babies were going to be born with deformities. What did we do? Nothing.

We saw people being poisoned in Michigan. What did we do? Nothing.

Don't tell me to wait for a moment of silence, and don't tell me to pray. Because, before I pray, I make sure, before I ask God for anything, that I have done everything humanly possible that I can do, and then I ask and I pray to Him for His help.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MICHAEL SMITH

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, today we lay to rest a hero of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, Sergeant Michael Smith of the Dallas Police Department.

Sergeant Smith, along with four of his police brothers, died in the tragic Dallas ambush last week. When shots rang out in downtown Dallas, Sergeant Smith unfortunately was in harm's way.

A resident of Carrollton, Texas, Sergeant Smith joined the force in 1989. But this was not his first call to service. Michael previously served in the Army, retiring as an Army Ranger.

Like so many who serve, Michael Smith's service was not limited to his uniform. He was an active volunteer in his church, the Watermark Community Church, and the YMCA.

His lasting legacy will be found in the hearts of the many people whom he touched. Michael Smith was among the very best of public servants and a credit to the uniform that he wore.

In the wake of this unspeakable tragedy, the people of Dallas have come together in a resilient spirit. It is a spirit that I hope, along with the memory of Sergeant Smith, will be enduring.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces a correction to an earlier vote tally. On rollcall vote No. 472, the "yeas" were 191 and the "nays" were 236.

CONGRESS' SEVEN-WEEK ADJOURNMENT

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

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, after being in session for only 74 days so far this year, the Republican leadership has decided to send us home for 7½ weeks. That is thoroughly unacceptable to the American people. They expect us to do our job.

That is not what we are going to be doing for the next 7½ weeks. We have a laundry list of things that we have to get done. We need comprehensive gun safety reform. We need comprehensive legislation to deal with Zika and other serious bio-threats.

We have to deal with the Social Security COLA problem for our seniors, higher education reauthorization, comprehensive mental health reform—we passed some of that in the House, but we have to do more—comprehensive job package, postal reform, campaign finance reform. You name it, we have to do it. We haven't done it yet.

It is time for us to do our job. It is time for the Republicans to bring us back. After those conventions, we could come back in August, folks, and we could get the job done.

10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS OLYMPIANS

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize six talented young women from the Illinois 10th Congressional District, who have been selected to represent our country in the rhythmic gymnastics group competition at the upcoming 2016 Summer Olympic Games.

Monica Rokhman, Jennifer Rokhman, Natalie McGiffert, Kiana Eide, Alisa Kano, and Kristen Shaldybin will be departing for Rio de Janeiro this August to compete for Team USA.

Our community is very proud of their hard work as members of the North Shore Rhythmic Gymnastics Center, and I commend them on all of their recent achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I am excited to watch this dedicated group of young women compete and look forward to celebrating all of their success.

ABANDONED ISSUES

(Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker and Members, if you take a look at this House, that side of the aisle is empty. They left. They are gone.

Take a look on this side, and you see Democrats. Democrats are raising the question: Why did you decide to leave and to take a break without dealing with the serious issues that confront us today?

Let me just remind them: Columbine; Newtown; Aurora, Colorado; Fort Hood Army Base, Texas; Tucson, Arizona, Representative Gabby Giffords; Oak Creek, Wisconsin; Washington, D.C., Navy Yard; Reynolds High School; Emanuel AME Church; San Bernardino; Pulse nightclub, Orlando, Florida. In all of these, there were children.

What do we say about the children? We have had a moment of silence, and we have forgotten that children are dying. In Flint, Michigan, children still don't have clean water. The water has lead in it. We have not done anything.

Well, whether we are talking about Flint or the Zika virus or the children who have been killed because of gun violence, Republicans, where are you? Shame on you for abandoning the issues that need to be dealt with.

□ 1430

IRAN DEAL IS BAD FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, July 14, 2015, the day our President went against Congress and the wishes of the American people and signed a nuclear agreement with Iran.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, more commonly known as the Iran deal, provided Iran sanctions relief in exchange for Iran to dismantle their nuclear program.

One year later, America has upheld its part of the bargain, but Iran continues to violate the terms of the agreement with little to no consequence. That is why today, on the 1-year anniversary of the Iran deal, the House passed legislation to reinstate sanctions on Iran.

History has proven Iran cannot be trusted. I thought it was a bad deal for America and Israel from the beginning, and I still do.

Mr. Speaker, no one can predict the future, but it is foolish to turn a blind eye to history. I voted to stop the Iran deal because I could not support any agreement that puts the security of Americans and our allies at risk and emboldens the Iran regime. A year later, I feel the same way.

DON'T TURN OFF THE LIGHTS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow there will be a bright and shiny Sun, but in this Chamber it will be nothing but darkness—nothing but darkness, with no sound, no response from my friends on the other side of the aisle.

From 2005 to 2015, 300,000 people have died from senseless gun violence. The people of Flint are crying out for relief from poisoned lead water.

And then there is the Zika virus impacting the Gulf region. As of July 6, 1,132 travel-associated cases of the Zika virus; 2,534 cases in U.S. territories; and, of course, the Gulf region is a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Pregnant women with laboratory evidence of Zika, now some 320, including the United States and the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories is

279. And, yes, a baby has now been born with microcephaly in Harris County in Texas. And our Gulf region Zika task force has said thousands more may come.

Give us the Senate bill, \$1.9 billion. Our people are suffering. Don't turn off the lights. Let's work. They are crying out for relief.

REMOVAL OF NAMES OF MEMBERS AS COSPONSORS OF H.R. 2446

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) be removed as cosponsors of H.R. 2446.

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

There was no objection.

WE NEED TO GET BACK TO WORK

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, guns, gun safety; Zika; Flint, Michigan—just three of the critical issues House Republicans are leaving town without addressing.

Despite overwhelming public support, House Republicans have refused to bring any commonsense gun safety legislation to the floor. As they fail to act, many Americans unnecessarily die every day. On average, 91 Americans die from gun violence every day, and that means that we can expect more than 4,700 Americans to be killed over the 7-week recess.

Seven babies have now been born in the United States with Zika-related birth defects, including one yesterday in Texas. Not only is there insufficient funding, but Republicans have used the Zika legislation to continue their attack on women's access to reproductive health services.

Republicans have continued to ignore Flint, Michigan, where the children are still drinking poisoned water and people are fleeing the city.

We have too much to do. We need to get back to work.

EPA OVERREACH IMPACTS AGRICULTURE

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the Clean Water Act, as created, was intended to protect our national waterways from industrial pollution. For the past 40 years, the State and Federal partnership under that law has helped improve our lakes and rivers.

However, in recent years, under this administration, we have seen the Army Corps of Engineers and EPA continuously overstep their authority to an

unprecedented degree, despite clear opposition and legal barriers.

In fact, in 2012, the Supreme Court condemned EPA's practice of using the law to persecute farmers and ranchers with absolutely no proof or due process offered to these landowners.

Again, early this year, the Supreme Court shut down EPA's ongoing attempts to exempt their actions limiting property rights from traditional challenges, one of our Nation's most fundamental rights.

This is not a fight over clean water; it is a fight about Federal control. The creators of this law never intended for bureaucrats to have control of nearly every ditch, puddle, or pond they can get their hands on, while trying to regulate everyday activities like plowing, explicitly exempted under the law. Yet we continue to see this administration use their own very imaginative interpretations to harass property owners.

It is certainly unfortunate we have to pass additional legislation to require bureaucrats to stay within the law, but that is what we will do. I have an amendment in the appropriation bill just passed that will help do that and rein it in.

YET CONGRESS HAS DONE NOTHING

(Mrs. LOWEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, in the face of extraordinary suffering, we are not asking for extraordinary courage from Members. We are asking for commonsense measures most Americans support.

Thousands of children in Flint have been exposed to lead, yet Congress has done nothing. Over 4,000 Americans have been infected with Zika ahead of peak mosquito season, yet Congress has done nothing. Gun violence in America is an epidemic, killing over 30,000 Americans each year, yet Congress has done nothing.

It is cowardly to return to our constituents for 7 weeks without action. It is cowardly for this majority to run from our responsibilities because they are scared of the NRA when Americans consistently live in fear of gun violence.

This House has done nothing to address these real, widespread concerns. We should not recess without taking action for the American people.

ST. THOMAS MORE

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

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, on June 22, it was the feast day of St. Thomas More. I was unable to get to the House floor that day, so I am going to tell you a little bit about him today.

Sir Thomas More was known in the early 1500s as a Renaissance man who

was an English lawyer, author, social philosopher, and a statesman. More is most notably known for his opposition to King Henry VIII's separation from the Catholic Church and refusing to acknowledge King Henry as the supreme head of the Church of England.

Thomas More was later convicted of treason and lost his own head in 1535.

St. Thomas More was canonized in 1935 by Pope Pius XI and was hailed by Pope John Paul II as the "heavenly patron of statesmen and politicians."

At a time when our country faces deep partisan divides, let us look toward St. Thomas More for guidance and strength. In the words of St. More, "When statesmen forsake their own private consciences for the sake of their public duties, they lead their country by a short route to chaos."

LET'S REVIEW THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN RECORD

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, well, as the House Republicans flee town, let's just take a minute to review their record: no budget; no vote on gun violence measures; no Zika funding; no Flint, Michigan, fix; no VA appeals overhaul; no long-term FAA reauthorization; no Voting Rights Act.

But, wait, they did do a few things. They voted to make our air and water dirtier, to degrade our environment, to interfere with a woman's healthcare choices, to roll back ObamaCare, to reinstitute discrimination in our laws. They even voted to screw elephants and polar bears. They also voted to waste millions of taxpayer dollars on hours of meaningless hearings.

So I say, Mr. Speaker, don't underestimate the American public. You can run, but you cannot hide.

GIVE THE PEOPLE A VOTE ON THE ISSUES

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

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I have three bills that I am a cosponsor of—reasonable bills. One is to stop suspects on the terrorist watch list from acquiring firearms; one is to require universal background checks so that we are sure that the people who do buy firearms are psychologically capable of doing so; and another bill to study the health impacts of gun violence in America.

All across my district, I have received many, many, many calls. From the streets of Dorchester and South Boston and the North End in the city of Boston to the historic cities of Quincy and Brockton, the city of champions; from the beautiful towns in the north of my district, like Norwood and Dedham and Walpole and

Westwood to the south shore towns of Scituate, Abington, Hingham, Cohasset, and Hull, it is pretty near unanimous in my district. And the people that I represent would like to have a vote on this issue.

I think that is our job, that is our duty, and we should get to the business of taking up these bills and giving the people of the United States a vote on these issues.

AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE ACTION

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, the American people are demanding action to keep guns out of the hands of people who shouldn't have them. Instead, the people's House has been adjourned without a single vote on commonsense, life-saving legislation.

We need to be voting on legislation that expands background checks to keep dangerous people from getting these deadly weapons.

Mr. Speaker, this commonsense, bipartisan legislation is supported by 80 percent of the American public. Give us a vote. It is past time for House Republicans to stop ignoring their voices. Instead of taking real action, Republicans are playing games with a toothless NRA bill that does nothing to keep our communities safe.

Whether it is the Flint water crisis emergency, Zika threats, or gun safety, the American people deserve action, not just thoughts and prayers and moments of silence and 7 weeks out of session. The political gamesmanship won't stop the bloodshed, won't bring clean water to Flint, or prevent the Zika virus from spreading.

Mr. Speaker, let's actually do something. Let's do something to secure our children, our families, our Nation. We should do our job, but, once again, Congress is missing in action.

CONGRESS ADJOURNS WITHOUT ACTING ON URGENT NEEDS

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, this do-nothing Congress is adjourning for 7 weeks without acting on our urgent public health needs: gun violence, Zika, and the Flint water crisis.

Republicans have bent to the will of the gun lobby and refused to consider bipartisan legislation to prevent gun violence.

Republicans have refused to sufficiently fund our response to the Zika virus and, instead, used this crisis as a way to advance their anti-choice agenda.

And Republicans have failed to address the long-term damage done to the children of Flint by lead-poisoned water. We should be working to fix our

water infrastructure in Flint and across America so this tragedy never happens again. And, again this week, Republicans blocked an amendment on the Interior-Environment bill to help the families of Flint.

Now Republicans are heading to a 7-week recess without doing their jobs, standing up for the health and safety of the American people.

I AM DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, today, the House of Representatives will recess for a 7-week district work period. Of course, I look forward to going home to Oregon to spend time with my family and meet with my constituents, but I am deeply disappointed that the House is going into recess without taking meaningful action to keep our communities safe.

It has been 1 month since 49 people were gunned down in Orlando, almost a year since 9 people were killed at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon, and 3½ years since 20 children and 6 educators were murdered in Newtown. Yet Congress has taken no action to make American communities safer from gun violence.

I am disappointed that we are going back home without passing the bipartisan, commonsense, comprehensive background-check bill that is supported by an overwhelming majority of Americans.

We need to fund efforts to combat Zika and help people in Flint, Michigan, and across this country who do not have access to safe drinking water. Our constituents are counting on us to keep them safe, and they deserve so much better than this congressional inaction.

□ 1445

GUN VIOLENCE

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, every day, 91 Americans lose their lives to gun violence. Americans are fed up with Republicans' dangerous obstruction of bipartisan, commonsense gun violence legislation. House Republicans won't even allow a vote. They won't even allow a vote on the gun violence prevention laws.

Instead, we are leaving Washington, led by the empty House that you see on the Republican side, for almost 2 months, for the longest summer congressional recess in 60 years, abandoning the people who put them in office.

I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to work with us to provide some form of balance and relief for all those who have been victims of gun violence across this country.

We, my Democratic colleagues, have received overwhelming support across this country not only for gun enforcement from our faith leaders, but the families of those who lost lives to this epidemic of gun violence in this country.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for action. And the time for action is now.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

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

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise because I cannot believe it. I cannot believe that the Republican Members of Congress would leave Washington, the Nation's Capital, for 7½ weeks without taking a single step to respond to the real suffering, the real pain, the real hurt, the real despair of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, there is so much hurt, so much hate, so much violence. We have a moral obligation, a mission, and a mandate to do something about gun violence. Too many of our sisters and brothers have suffered. Too many have lost their lives. They have lost too many of our children, too many of our mothers and fathers, too many of our friends and neighbors.

Where are the leaders? Do you have any courage, Republican Members of Congress? Where is your leadership?

It is a disgrace, it is a shame that you would leave Washington and not do anything about gun violence.

ZIKA FUNDING

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, a little over an hour ago, we finished voting. Right now, most of my Republican colleagues are leaving Washington for the longest summer recess in 60 years. Many Americans will be surprised to hear this. There are so many issues we have yet to address.

Do my Republican colleagues actually think we have earned this break?

We are well into mosquito season and Congress has yet to provide meaningful emergency funding to battle the spread of Zika. In the United States, we already have seen 560 cases of Zika in pregnant women and 7 babies already born with birth defects.

My Republican colleagues are leaving Washington without providing any aid to help the thousands of children suffering lead poisoning in Flint, Michigan. My colleagues are taking a 2-month vacation without lifting a finger to act on lifesaving, commonsense legislation to keep guns out of the hands of terrorists and criminals.

God forbid there will be another mass shooting in the next 2 months. The American people will have a sick feeling knowing that Congress did nothing to try to prevent it.

The American people deserve better than that. We did not earn this recess,

and I urge my Republican colleagues to cancel their vacations until we tackle these issues.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, here in the House, the majority decides the schedule. Right now, that is the Republicans. We have met for 74 days, and now we are leaving until after Labor Day. It is unbelievable.

What haven't we done?

We have not closed the loophole to prevent gun violence or passed a bill to keep from selling assault weapons to people on the terrorist watch list. That is incredible. Maybe some people aren't surprised because of our suspicion that the NRA owns the Republican Party.

What is even more astounding is the lack of funding for Zika. We passed a measure that was half of what was requested not by the President, but by the Centers for Disease Control, the scientists. We turned our backs on their request and, incredibly, put into the measure a requirement that you can't provide birth control.

Don't you think that women who are facing the Zika virus and who want to postpone pregnancy because they don't want to have a child who is disabled should be able to get birth control?

HONORING RODOLFO PINON

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, it is a shame that the Republican leadership chose to adjourn the House without working to keep Americans safe from gun violence, lead poison in their water, and the Zika virus.

However, I rise today to recognize Mr. Rodolfo Pinon of Blythe, California, an outstanding leader, husband, and father in my district.

Rodolfo is a humble man with a deep and rich passion to serve others. He gives voice to the voiceless and has improved communities and changed many lives.

With Pueblo Unido, he has installed water filters to 25 mobile home parks, where too many communities face the health threat of drinking water contaminated with arsenic. He has paved 38 mobile home parks in the community, improving the quality of life of so many residents. He has helped countless hardworking and poor families find affordable housing. He is loved and is a friend and inspiration to many he has mentored.

Unfortunately, Rodolfo was recently diagnosed with advanced liver cancer. His family and loved ones are going through this terrible illness. My message is that we hope Rodolfo and his family find strength and comfort

knowing that, as a community, we appreciate and thank him. We also appreciate his signature cowboy hat, boots, and big silver belt buckles.

The best way to honor Rodolfo is to practice his selfless love for others, justice, and service to the community.

GUN VIOLENCE EPIDEMIC

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my severe disappointment about congressional inaction on the gun violence epidemic that is plaguing our communities.

Once again, we are breaking for recess without a vote on any gun violence prevention measures. This time, we will be leaving for 7 weeks—the longest period of time in recent history.

Every moment that we don't act, we flood even more streets with dangerous weapons, we equip even more criminals with guns, and we risk losing even more lives to senseless gun violence.

So for another 7 weeks, the American people have to wait for action. For another 7 weeks, Congress is neglecting its duty to the American people. For another 7 weeks, we are putting our families, friends, and loved ones at risk.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that sometime within the next 7 weeks you will find the courage to listen to your constituents in Janesville and call up a commonsense gun violence measure for a vote.

GIVE US A VOTE

(Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great concern as the Republic majority has allowed the House to head home for 52 days without addressing the gun violence epidemic, providing resources to respond to Zika, or doing anything about the Flint water crisis. And that is just to name a few issues.

Mr. Speaker, our constituents elected us to focus on their needs: growing our economy, creating jobs, improving education for our children, improving and ensuring safety and security in their communities.

Now, we are about to leave town without handling at least these three incredibly concerning issues. I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to see reason, work with us to find a path to compromise, get back to doing their jobs, and give us a vote.

SILENCE OF INACTION

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, we Democrats are here to act. The Republicans leave here with stony silence: the silence of inaction on Zika; the silence of inaction on the needs of Flint; the silence of inaction on the no fly, no buy and background checks.

Years ago there was reference to an American silent majority. Today it is the Republican congressional majority that is silent. What the vast majority of Americans want is action on Zika, action on Flint, and action on gun violence.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that Republicans are adjourning the House early rather than staying to work on issues to keep Americans safe, whether that is giving us a vote to prevent dangerous people like terrorists from obtaining a machine gun or keeping toxic water from flowing in Flint, Michigan, or addressing the Zika public health crisis.

Zika really hits home for me because I represent the Tampa Bay area in the State of Florida. It was January when we had the first cases of Zika announced in Florida. It was February when public health experts, including the CDC and the President, said we need an emergency bill to develop vaccines to prevent birth defects and diagnose cases. It was March when we had hearings where public health experts expressed a sense of urgency of the Congress to act.

But here we are in July, 6 months later, with almost 300 cases in Florida, and 43 are pregnant women. We had the first case in Florida of a baby born with microcephaly. It is very serious. Those babies can't see, they can't hear, they can't walk.

I am proud of my Democratic colleagues who have remained in the Capitol to work.

I am asking: Where are the Republicans? Why did you adjourn early rather than stay here to work to keep the American people safe?

NRA: NO REPUBLICAN ACTION

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, once again, here we are. Democrats are here, ready to roll up their sleeves and work to do what we need to do for the American people.

I have been to a briefing on Zika. We have seen what the whole issue around gun violence has meant for this country.

Why aren't we here to do the work of the American people? Why aren't we here to answer their call?

We have the issue in Flint.

Why would we leave Americans in the lurch without clean water to drink? Why?

My colleagues on the other side have good will, but why can we not do the things we need to do for the American people?

It is unconscionable that we have adjourned and they have left town. It is irresponsible. The people have sent us here to do the work of the people. These things are critical to moving this Nation forward, and we cannot get anything done because of NRA: No Republican Action.

□ 1500

ZIKA REPRESENTS A SERIOUS THREAT

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, there is no disputing it, Zika represents a serious threat to global health and security. It is irresponsible and dangerous that Republicans plan to leave Washington for a 7-week recess without providing the resources to combat this threat.

The Zika virus is spreading explosively throughout the Americas, with active local transmission in 31 countries and territories. More than 3,600 Americans, including more than 600 pregnant women in 45 States, D.C., and three U.S. territories, have already been diagnosed with the Zika virus, and more transmission is expected.

Mr. Speaker, it is not a matter of if we will have local transmission of the Zika virus in the Continental United States, it is a question of when.

Despite that risk, Republicans refuse to provide the resources to address this public health crisis. Instead, they have insisted on saddling potential funding with irrelevant and damaging partisan riders.

Make no mistake about it, without swift action, we are gambling with the health of our Nation. The time is now for Congress to work in a bipartisan fashion and provide the necessary funds to protect individuals across this Nation.

LAMEDUCK CONGRESS

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans shot out of here like mice when you cut the lights on; so busy to get to their convention, their Titanic convention in Cleveland, where they will nominate Donald Trump to be their next President, all the while, leaving the people of Flint, Michigan, up the river without a paddle.

Then, on top of that, to take no action on funding Zika and to pass a bill, but no funding, is like sending soldiers into war without a weapon or, worse

yet, sending them to war with a gun that they didn't know didn't have any bullets in it.

It is really criminal that my friends from the other side of the aisle would leave America in the lurch, leaving us only 17 legislative days when we return in 7 weeks to do the work of the people, only 17 days left before the lameduck session. And, really, I believe that this Congress has been operating as a lame-duck since it began.

CONGRESS IS SILENT ON GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, this Republican Congress has left this Chamber early without addressing a public health crisis in this country called gun violence.

The Republican Congress may find comfort in remaining silent, in doing the bidding of the gun lobby, in turning its back on the American people. But our inaction disserves our constituents and the tens of thousands of families who have lost their loved ones to gun violence. Millions more worry that they and their families are not safe, and if mothers can't sleep at night knowing their children are safe from harm, neither should this Congress.

I challenge my colleagues who have left here early to be silent to engage their communities when they go home. Find the courage to do the right thing and reject the gun lobby's heavy hand.

Let's bring the will of the American people to this body and pass commonsense legislation. Do not be on the wrong side of history. Do not bet against the American people. Stand with us to end this deadly silence.

REPUBLICAN INACTION

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, today, the House adjourns for a 7-week recess, and House Republicans are leaving town for 52 days without any action to address the many issues before our great Nation. Yet, we find ourselves trapped, trapped in congressional inaction, with Speaker RYAN telling the American people: See you in September.

Trapped because Republicans have failed to bring legislation to the House floor that would address our Nation's gun violence epidemic.

Trapped in the height of summer because House Republicans have failed to provide critical resources to respond to the Zika health crisis.

Trapped, and the residents of Flint are still waiting for Congress to do something to help them.

Mr. Speaker, we are trapped with do-nothing Republican leadership. We should not be leaving today for 52 days in the face of so many pressing needs.

We should stay here. We should work together. We should move legislation that protects the American people. It is what our constituents expect and, most importantly, they deserve that. We should not be trapped.

IT IS TIME TO PUT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE FIRST

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my Republican colleagues to do their jobs, pass legislation that moves our country forward.

House Democrats have led sit-ins here on the floor. We have led vigils on the floor, and we have demanded action at press conferences right outside the House floor. But despite it all, no real legislation has been passed on the House floor.

Speaker RYAN refuses to do the work that we were all elected to do. Ninety-seven percent of Americans have spoken. They want gun reform, not a 6-week vacation for their Representatives.

For 52 days, the Republican-led Congress has done nothing. Instead of passing commonsense legislation for gun reform, House Republicans are going on summer vacation. Instead of providing adequate funding for the Zika health crisis, House Republicans are going on summer vacation. Instead of addressing the Flint water crisis, House Republicans are going on summer vacation.

It is unacceptable. I am disappointed. It is irresponsible leadership. I call on Speaker RYAN and Congress to come back in session, finally do the work that we were elected to do.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, to put the will of the people first.

CONGRESS HAS UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today in this wonderful House with so many of my colleagues to speak forcefully to the issue of unfinished business that is continuing to mount.

The silence in the House now will be deafening for 52 days. The paralysis caused in the lives of too many shows a gross sense of insensitivity and disrespect.

We are asking for action on several bills. We don't think that we should leave for these 52 days and, worse yet, close down session days before it was scheduled to close.

We have a Zika virus crisis that is gripping the lives of many, and it is starting to have its presence felt in these United States, issues that will cost us tens of millions of dollars per child because of an inaction to address the Zika virus.

We have a crisis in Flint that has not been responded to, where we have walked away from families and their needs for the given need of drinking water.

I have a bill, the Aqua bill, that we need to address on this House floor. Let's do our business. Let's not walk away from our responsibilities. Let's be sensitive to America. No vacation if we have not done our work.

CRITICAL UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, Congress has earned its longest summer recess in more than 3 decades. I mean, this session we have done so much.

Take, for example, our quick response to the Zika health crisis. Oh, wait, not that one.

Well, what about how Congress provided emergency funding to the people of Flint, Michigan? Oh, wait. Scratch that. Republicans blocked that measure as well.

But at least we were able to pass commonsense gun violence prevention laws that 9 out of 10 Americans favor.

Mr. Speaker, I think I brought the wrong list up here because the GOP majority blocked those bills from coming to the floor as well.

The reality is the Republican majority has done little to nothing to deserve this 7-week recess. Hardworking Americans elected their Members of Congress to do their job on behalf of the American people. It is shameful and embarrassing to leave town with these critical items unfinished.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SETH RICH

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

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I stand with my colleagues and lament that we are going home without addressing these very difficult issues.

Mr. Speaker, this week the Omaha community lost a treasured son. I stand before you today to honor the memory of 27-year old Seth Rich. Seth was returning home early Sunday morning when he was the victim of a tragic and senseless shooting just 1 block from his Washington, D.C., home.

Seth had dedicated his all-too-brief career to public service that began in high school and blossomed in college before he set out to change things for the better in our Nation's Capital. While his life was cut short, his legacy and work to expand access to voting for millions of Americans will not be lost.

Seth's family and friends remember a passionate young man out to do good works from whatever platform he was given. A Nebraskan through and through, although he now called D.C. home, Seth could be found cheering on

the Husker football team and Creighton basketball team.

No one deserves this kind of senseless violence, and the thoughts and prayers of all Nebraskans go out to Seth's family.

CONGRESS HAS MORAL RESPONSIBILITY TO ACT

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, when we were elected to serve, we were charged with a responsibility, the responsibility to give our constituents a voice in Washington. They are crying out for action on the public health emergencies that are plaguing our country.

And if we do not act, why are we here?

We need to vote on legislation that makes an impact on the epidemic of gun violence in our country. The American people are demanding a vote, and we have a moral obligation to take action. For each of us, it is personal. In every community in this country, the effects of gun violence have left scars that will never heal.

Congress also needs to act immediately on Zika. We must fund the President's request that was made 5 months ago. We must not put American women in the predicament of choosing whether or not they should get pregnant or, if they are already pregnant, wondering whether or not their baby is okay.

We are also facing a nationwide opioid epidemic that is sounding alarms that we must heed. We are all seeing this in our districts.

And the lead poisoning of thousands of children in Flint, Michigan, and across our country has not disappeared. Over 500,000 children every day are affected by lead poisoning.

We were elected to vote on issues working families care about. The Republican majority left town, abdicating its responsibility and leaving the American people at risk.

REPUBLICAN INACTION

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

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today, House Republicans are leaving town for 52 days. That is 52 days that we won't be taking action to address public health crises like Zika and the Flint water crisis. Time and time again, House Republicans have blocked meaningful emergency funding needed to protect the health and safety of American families.

And even as Americans continue to lose their lives every day, House Republicans still have not answered our call for a vote on bipartisan gun violence prevention legislation. We have a responsibility to protect the safety of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, it is time we answer the call of communities across this country who are demanding action on commonsense solutions like strengthening our background check system and ensuring we keep guns out of the hands of suspected terrorists.

Families are counting on us. Let's do our job.

CONGRESS HAS COMPELLING UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, last month I sat with parents who lost children to gun violence. There was such sorrow in the room.

"When I lost my son, I lost myself," one mother said.

Another said: "Until we get these guns off the streets, the cycle is going to continue."

As I listened to their stories, I heard again the tragic ways that gun violence so abruptly takes lives and devastates families and communities every single day, and I took to heart their message that too many weapons are too easily available.

Preventing weapons from getting into the hands of terrorists, criminals, domestic abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill is common sense and essential to our security, and there are bipartisan bills in Congress right now that would do just that.

Mr. Speaker, we should not be leaving town with such compelling unfinished business. We should be voting on commonsense, bipartisan legislation that keeps guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals.

□ 1515

ZIKA VIRUS

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

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, Zika virus—there is no vaccine, and there is no treatment. It kills the weak and the frail. The fancy term is it is also teratogenic. It disrupts regular embryonic development—teratogenic. It has infected 1,000 Americans—200 pregnant women. It is spread by mosquitos that are just emerging from their winter dormancy.

What are we doing about it? We are going home for 7 weeks.

As this body has descended further and further into dysfunction, I have heard a lot of rationalizations: "Congress just waits until the last minute"; "they have to see real consequences before they take action"; "let the body work through regular order."

I reject them all. For the second time in 3 years, this body has had and faced a devastating, urgent public health crisis.

What has been our response? Missing in action.

We acted too late with Ebola, and now, with Zika, we are not acting at all. Democracy can't work if we don't work.

I don't yield back, Mr. Speaker. I don't yield now. I don't yield in September. I don't yield in November, and I don't yield in December until we do our work.

Come back. Fight this disease.

SALVADOR ESPARZA AND WORK LEFT UNDONE

(Ms. JUDY CHU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, at just 4 years old, Salvador Esparza already had a reputation for lighting up a room whenever he walked in. His aunt called him "a sweet boy with a passion for soccer and Spiderman."

But now pictures and memories are all that remain. Last week, Salvador was shot and killed in a drive-by shooting on his own front porch in my California district. Like him, 91 people are killed by guns each day.

But people like Salvador deserve to be more than a statistic. That is why I joined 350 people in front of Pasadena City Hall last week at a vigil to call for an end to gun violence. They are hurting.

Now is the time for Congress to take action to save lives. But, instead, Republicans decided to end session early and push lifesaving work on guns, Zika, and the Flint water crisis aside.

The American people elected us to do our job. They deserve better.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS HAVE CUT AND RUN ON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, here we are, House Democrats, right here in the House, ready to work. Where are House Republicans? Well, they have escaped for 52 days without taking care of the Nation's business.

That's right, escaped—you know, left, fled, absconded, disappeared, departed, dodged, bolted, bailed, ducked out, burst out, shipped out, made off, cut and run. That is what House Republicans have done.

But here is what is left undone: the opportunity to protect our children and families from the spread of the Zika virus, from a concern to a public health crisis; the opportunity to provide clean drinking water for over 9,000 children in Flint, Michigan, poisoned with lead.

This is serious. In fact, it is sobering. In the next 52 days that the House Republicans have escaped, 4,732 American men, women, and children will lose their lives to gun violence, including 67 who will be killed with a gun as a result of domestic violence. Mr. Speaker,

6,780 perpetrators have already gotten their hands on guns through the loophole.

Where are House Republicans? You got it. They are on vacation.

So shame on House Republicans for not acting to protect our communities from the epidemic of gun violence by passing 100 percent background checks no matter where a gun is purchased and preventing terrorists from buying a gun when they can't even get on a plane. Shame on House Republicans for cutting and running on the American people.

CONGRESS' APPROVAL RATING

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

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, a recent poll showed that Congress has an approval rating of 12 percent. Nobody in their right mind would ever think that is a good rating.

It is no wonder that our poll ratings are so low. We have left now for 7 weeks—52 days, as you have heard—without funding Zika, despite the fact that it is spreading throughout the Southwest United States and the territories.

We have left now for 52 days—7 weeks—without passing commonsense gun safety legislation, despite the terrible tragedies we are seeing in all of our communities every day.

We have left town without addressing the opioid epidemic in any meaningful way through funding.

Now, listen. Our constituents didn't send us here to go on vacation. They have sent us here to do the work of the people. And anybody who thinks that the people—our constituents—are not going to notice that we are not here doing this work for 7 weeks doesn't understand what the House Democratic Caucus intends to do for the next 2 months, because we intend to remind our constituents every single day of the job that we were elected to do.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 534

Whereas William L. Armstrong (in this preamble referred to as "Bill Armstrong") was born in Fremont, Nebraska, and attended Tulane University and the University of Minnesota;

Whereas Bill Armstrong was a broadcaster and owner of media outlets, such as radio stations and newspapers;

Whereas Bill Armstrong served in the Army National Guard of the United States from 1957 to 1963, which brought him to Colorado;

Whereas at age 25 Bill Armstrong was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives, where he served from 1963 to 1964;

Whereas Bill Armstrong then served in the Colorado Senate from 1965 to 1972, where he

became Majority Leader after only 4 years of service;

Whereas Bill Armstrong served the people of Colorado in the United States House of Representatives from 1973 to 1979 and in the United States Senate from 1979 to 1991;

Whereas Bill Armstrong served honorably as the Chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee from 1985 to 1991;

Whereas Bill Armstrong was a strong conservative who consistently advocated for such matters as fiscal discipline and tax reform, pay and benefits for military service members, and the support of small businesses;

Whereas Bill Armstrong worked to pass the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 (Public Law 97-34, 95 Stat. 172) and was recognized multiple times with the "Taxpayers' Friend" award by the National Taxpayers Union;

Whereas Bill Armstrong was named the "military pay champion" of the Senate by the Army Times;

Whereas Bill Armstrong was an ardent champion of small business;

Whereas Bill Armstrong earned the "Guardian of Small Business" award from the National Federation of Independent Business, and the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry Public Service Award in 1982 for his distinguished service to the people of Colorado;

Whereas Bill Armstrong was instrumental to the passage of title I of Public Law 96-560 (94 Stat. 3265) (commonly known as the "Colorado National Forest Wilderness Act of 1980"), which preserved 1,400,000 acres of land;

Whereas Bill Armstrong continued to serve the people of Colorado for the last 10 years as president of Colorado Christian University;

Whereas Bill Armstrong possessed a strong faith and lived his life accordingly;

Whereas Bill Armstrong led hundreds of prayer breakfasts and served on the board of Campus Crusade for Christ and Christian Businessmen's Committee USA;

Whereas Bill Armstrong was a person of firm principle, worked towards meaningful solutions, and described himself as "relatively inflexible on principles, but flexible on the details";

Whereas, throughout his life, Bill Armstrong demonstrated great integrity and remarkable leadership; and

Whereas Bill Armstrong touched the lives of all those he served and helped families across Colorado through his devotion to public service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable William L. Armstrong, former member of the United States Senate;

(2) the Senate instructs the Secretary of the Senate to communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of William L. Armstrong; and

(3) when the Senate adjourns on the date of adoption of this resolution, it stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable William L. Armstrong.

The message also announced that the Senate disagrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 2943) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.", and agrees to the request from

the House for a conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon with instructions, and appoints Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WICKER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mrs. FISHER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. LEE, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. REED, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, and Mr. HEINRICH to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

LEAVING FOR AUGUST RECESS

(Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, when we Democrats held our sit-in on the floor of the House, I proudly stood up and said that call to action was, in fact, the reason I came to Congress—not so much the act itself, but the rationale behind it.

I came to Congress to get things done on behalf of my constituents. In fact, it baffles me, along with my constituents, that we aren't even allowed to debate, much less vote, on an issue as dire and as important as gun violence.

Now House Republicans have left town for 7 weeks without addressing this very issue, and this part of the debate is in every community in America. It is not just gun violence. We have not adequately dealt with the Zika health crisis, and we have not dealt with the Flint water crisis.

I am going to go home to New Mexico soon, where forest fires are raging across the West. But we did nothing to support those States and the Forest Service that battles those fires at home.

I wasn't elected to apologize to my constituents every time I see them for the inaction of the Republican leadership. We should stay in this Chamber, and we should do the work that our constituents expect and demand of us.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud that the Nation's Capitol has the strongest gun safety laws in the country. Yet the Capitol complex was on lockdown Tuesday as D.C. Police chased suspects armed with a machine gun and shooting at police near the Capitol.

People and their guns travel in interstate commerce instantly making our country's gun problem national, not local. D.C.'s strong gun safety laws are still on the books, despite pro-gun lawsuits and incessantly proposed Republican riders. But local and State laws

to protect our people are undermined by inaction by this Congress.

The Charleston loophole is the decent place to begin. We sat in on the House floor because we could not go home in silence for July Fourth. Today, we declare no recess from the gun show loophole until universal background checks become the law of the land.

GUN SAFETY

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, we ought to be able to go to the store, walk down our sidewalks, and go dancing without the fear of being shot. Democrats and Republicans in the United States House of Representatives need to come together to pass commonsense gun safety legislation.

What is wrong with a no fly, no buy bill? If you can't get on a plane, if you cannot board one of our commercial aircraft carriers in this country, why in the world can you go into a sporting goods store and buy a TEC-9—or any kind of gun for that matter? We need to do something.

Let me tell you, as a native Texan, responsible gun owners aren't the problem. I own a gun. A lot of Democrats that I know own guns. But I don't want al Qaeda and I don't want ISIS owning guns. But under the current laws in the U.S., if they are on a no-fly list, they can go into a sporting goods store and buy a gun.

It is just not right. Let's take some action now, Mr. Speaker.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, if you go to a federally licensed gun dealer to buy a firearm, you must pass a background check. But if you go to a private seller at a gun show or over the Internet, it is completely legal to buy a firearm with no background check to determine if you are fit to own a deadly weapon.

In all the discussion we have had on gun violence, I have yet to hear one good reason why this loophole should continue to exist.

Mr. Speaker, 92 percent of gun owners and 86 percent of Republican voters support universal background checks. But instead of listening to the American people, my Republican colleagues have left town. They have rushed out of town. They have scrambled out of town.

I will say the same thing I told my students when I was a high school teacher: There can be no recess until our work is done.

Come back to Washington, and let's pass a universal background check bill.

CONGRESS MUST DO ITS JOB

(Mrs. DINGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the House of Representatives prepares to leave Washington for 7 weeks—52 days—without addressing some of the most critical issues we face in this country.

Instead of working together, Democrats and Republicans, towards meaningful solutions to protect the American people, we spent the week debating bills that are going to go absolutely nowhere.

Our constituents are tired of our not getting things done. We have failed to meaningfully respond to the Flint water crisis, which has left families in my home State of Michigan reeling for too long.

My women friends are afraid to go outside because they are afraid they are going to be bitten by a mosquito, and we failed to provide critical resources to respond to the Zika health crisis.

When I meet with victims of domestic violence, which I do quietly every week, they want to know why can't we just talk about it.

People want to know why I am coming home for so long. They want action in this Chamber. We need to do the job the American people elected us to do. We need to come together to find solutions to the bigger problems we face.

Let's do our job.

ISSUES LEFT UNADDRESSED

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

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, when you think about it, it is a very simple solution to think about: If you can't fly because you are too dangerous to be on a plane and you are a threat to the country, why would you be allowed to buy a gun? Yet the gun lobby is so strong that our colleagues in the Republican Party could not see fit to change that.

Secondly, we have another threat in this country and that we are not paying attention to. We have a Zika epidemic that is brewing. It started already. It is hurting the territories. It is going to hurt Florida in a strong way, and it will move north. Then it might be too late, when we have so many people sick.

Why would they leave town and run away from real issues when they could have stayed here and faced the American people by doing the right thing? What are they going to say now to the American people when they ask: Why didn't you protect the children? Why didn't you protect the pregnant women? Why didn't you stop crazy people or people who need help from getting on an airplane with a gun?

That is the big issue that we have to deal with.

□ 1530

CONGRESS HAS BEEN GROSSLY IRRESPONSIBLE

(Mr. PRICE of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Congress is set to take the longest recess in memory with critical national priorities, even emergencies, unaddressed.

Three weeks ago on the floor of this House, we engaged in civil disobedience to protest the carnage of gun violence in our country and the disgrace of congressional inaction in the face of that.

Republican leadership was prevented by their Freedom Caucus from putting even a token measure on the floor. But we will not rest until we are able to keep guns out of the hands of prospective terrorists and are able to have effective background checks.

And now, incredibly, the Zika crisis is upon us. Months ago this should have been addressed. I convened researchers and government officials from my area, which is a research hub, to talk about the heroic efforts underway to find out how to prevent the spread of this virus, to understand how to develop a vaccine. Heroic work is going on. People are moving money around, dealing with the absence of a steady funding stream.

We have let our people down. A public health crisis is coming. Congress has been grossly irresponsible in failing to provide steady and sure emergency funding for what is surely going to be a desperate public health emergency.

ANNIVERSARY OF SANDRA BLAND'S DEATH

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on Congress to stay in session to take action against public health crises that are plaguing our country.

As the only Ph.D. scientist in Congress, I find it deeply disturbing that Congress has failed to act in the face of clear evidence: 91 Americans die from gunshot wounds every day; since 2014, more than 28,000 Americans have died from opioid overdoses; dangerous levels of lead are present in the drinking water of thousands of American families; and the Zika virus is a global health crisis that is now reaching our shores. Too many Americans are dying from senseless, but preventable, causes.

I represent the 11th District of Illinois, and this week marked the 1-year anniversary of another senseless death. Sandra Bland was a beloved member of our community. She died 1 year ago yesterday, alone in a Texas jail, after she was arrested for a minor traffic violation.

After 3 days in jail, Ms. Bland was found dead in her cell. The coroner ruled it a suicide, but we still don't

have the answers we need and that Sandra Bland's family deserves.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO CHANGE THE GUN LAW

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, we find some people so dangerous that we won't let them on a plane, but currently they can buy a gun. That makes no sense. How can you tell a person: No, you can't have that ticket, but would you like an automatic weapon? Would you like a machine gun?

That makes no sense.

If our law enforcement specialists, those that deal with this day in and day out, say to us this person should not get on a plane, how can we have laws right now that allow that person, then, to go right down to the store and get an automatic weapon and all the ammunition that he wants?

That makes no sense. In fact, the American people know that that makes no sense.

We need to change the law. We don't need a vacation. That is why we should be here right now debating these bills and doing something for the safety of our people.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO ADDRESS THREE CRISES

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority has decided to adjourn the House and take a 7-week vacation without dealing with the three crises that are pressing upon us now:

The epidemic of gun violence, a uniquely American crisis: every year, about 146 people die of gun violence in the United Kingdom, 71 in Denmark, 140 in Portugal, 30 in Japan—and 33,000 in the United States;

The Zika health crisis, which is about to give us thousands of terribly disabled babies; and

The Flint, Michigan, crisis, whose water was poisoned by the decision of the Governor's appointee.

We should not leave here without providing funds for Zika, funds without offsets and without irrelevant poison pills; we should at least enact a no fly, no buy bill and universal background checks to start dealing with the gun violence epidemic; and we should get Flint, Michigan, some drinkable water.

Let the majority deal with these three crises, then take a 6-week vacation if they want. But don't sentence thousands of Americans to die while you go off on vacation.

LEGISLATURE NEEDS TO GET ITS WORK DONE

(Mr. LARSON of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, in Dallas, Texas, we saw a champion. We saw a champion in Police Chief David Brown and how he conducted himself. When asked about his responsibility, he said: We will continue to do our responsibility as police officers, as we do every day out in the field. But the legislature needs to do its responsibility. The legislature needs to get its work done.

Those brave police officers do their work every day, and yet this Congress has not.

Roosevelt said it best about our colleagues on the other side of the aisle: They are frozen in the ice of their own indifference—indifference to the slaughter that takes place in our streets, indifference to the more than 1,000 mass murders that have taken place, indifference to the threat of Zika and the spread of disease, and indifference to children in Flint, Michigan.

It is time for us to do as David Brown said, "Do your job."

WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, AND WHY

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, in the course of these 1-minutes, of which there have been over 50, thank you, Mr. CICILLINE, for bringing us together once again on the steps of the Capitol a couple of nights ago and now here in the Chamber.

When we are in school and they ask us to write about something, they say: Answer these questions: Who? What? When? Where? Why?

Who? Little children in Newtown, young people in Orlando, churchgoers in South Carolina, moviegoers in Colorado, again and again. The list goes on and on as to the vulnerability.

What? What? What? Slaughter of people. Mr. THOMPSON has repeated the numbers over and over again. But 91 people killed every night on the streets of our country, and we had 91 people in orange shirts on the steps of the Capitol last week to mention that. Over 1,000 mass murders since Newtown, mass murders being described as over four people being killed in any one instance.

What? What? What? Violence on the streets of our city, and even in our churches and other.

Who? What? When? Every day. Every single day with greater frequency and intensity. Most recently, in Dallas. So sad. An assassination of five police officers. Many of us spoke to that in the course of the last few days.

Where? All over the country. I just mentioned Dallas, and I mentioned some other venues earlier. All over the country, every single day.

But the main question is, Why? Why is this happening? Mayor Rawlings of

Dallas was very eloquent in his comments when he said: We must address the root causes of this. Yes.

But why are these guns so readily available? Because Congress will not act—refuses to act—on passing commonsense gun violence prevention legislation. No fly, no buy. Almost everyone in our country supports that—Republicans, Democrats, Independents, gun owners, NRA members.

Not the NRA. The NRA stands between any commonsense solutions and this Congress, which I think they own.

Why? Because some people think their political survival is more important than survival of little kids in kindergarten in Newtown.

Why is it happening in kindergarten classes? in churches? in places of recreation for young people? in theaters? in bowling alleys? You name it, it has happened there.

Why? Because we have not fully impressed upon the American people their role in lobbying Congress to make a difference. We are limited in what we can ask people to do vis-a-vis Congress, but they are unlimited in their advocacy and in their capacity. Nothing is more eloquent to a Member of Congress than the voice of his or her own constituents.

As JOHN LEWIS, our beautiful icon who has led us in all of this, has said: What we have to do is convince the average Joe—that would be J-O or J-O-E—of their power to make the difference in our country by making their voices heard to Members of Congress who have the power to vote for legislation.

We ask over and over again for the Speaker to give us a vote because we believe and have confidence in the American people that their voices will be heard and not ignored again and again and again and again by the Republicans in Congress, but will give us a vote that will make America safer and help us to honor—to honor—our oath of office to protect and defend the American people.

This has gone into the realm of hate crimes. The same thing in South Carolina. The same thing in Orlando. It must end.

But our message is clear: we will not end until this is over, until we get commonsense gun violence prevention legislation passed by the Congress of the United States.

I thank all of my colleagues for what they are doing. Our whip, Mr. HOYER, is leader on the floor for us. Thank you for orchestrating this with Mr. CICILLINE and so many others. I thank my colleagues for making the voices of their constituents heard here.

GUN LOBBY HAS BLOCKED EFFORTS TO PASS SENSIBLE GUN LAWS

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, Maria and Fred Wright traveled to Washington to mark the 1-month anniversary of the murder of their son in Orlando. They wrote a beautiful op-ed:

While in D.C., we don't want just thoughts or prayers from Members of Congress. We want them to look us in the eyes and tell us: How will they work to make our Nation safer against gun violence? How will they perform their constitutional duty to "insure domestic tranquility" and "promote the general welfare"—some of the main roles of government according to our Constitution? How will they work to stand up to the extremist gun lobby and urge their fellow Members to do the same?

Unfortunately, for Maria and Fred Wright, and for all of us, they would have to run really fast to look into the eyes of Congress as our colleagues fled down the stairs to run out for a 7-week vacation and to do nothing. Their son, Jerry, is one of 33,000 Americans who will lose their life to gun violence every year in this country.

We urged our colleagues to bring to the floor something, do something in the face of this carnage. And we stay here as Democrats. The cameras can't stay in the room. The Republican side of the room is empty. They are gone. They are home with their family and friends. Maria and Fred will never get to be with their son Jerry.

They didn't do anything to protect us from gun violence, to protect us from the dangers of Zika, to protect us from lead poisoning. Our most sacred responsibility is the health and well-being of those we serve. Shame on our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Have they no decency to bring these bills to the floor and do their job?

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, we have common ground on the Republican and Democratic side of the aisle. There is a problem of gun violence. Innocent people—children in Newtown, workers in San Bernardino, worshippers in Charleston, and five very brave police officers in Dallas protecting the right of citizens to protest—all have been killed.

We have got to do something. We know that. We have a disagreement about what. But should we have a disagreement that we not even debate what is the right response as a policy to protect innocent lives from future gun violence? That is the question.

We can debate the Second Amendment. We can protect gun owner rights. But we can't hide from the responsibility that we chose to accept when we ran for office and asked people to entrust us with their vote in this Congress, that we won't even discuss, we won't debate, we won't have a committee hearing, we won't have a bill on the floor. That is what is really unacceptable.

Do you know what? We have a disagreement. Put some bills on the floor. We vote. Our voters then get to hold us accountable one way or the other.

□ 1545

JUST AN ORDINARY SUNDAY

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it was just another Sunday in December 2006 in West Palm Beach, Florida. Greg Key was in church, with the pastor delivering a sermon—a little sweat on his brow. It was just another Sunday when Greg's cell phone buzzed. He stepped out for a call that changed his life.

The voice on the other end told him that his 19-year-old daughter—the shining light of his life—had been gunned down as the innocent victim of a drive-by shooting.

On this ordinary Sunday, like on every other day of the year, 91 families got devastating news that a loved one had been killed by a firearm. Like I said, Mr. Speaker, it was just an ordinary Sunday.

TAKING ACTION ON GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my extreme concern that you have dismissed this House without taking action on the critical issues that face our Nation, especially gun violence.

I rise on their behalf—for the families who have lost loved ones to gun violence all over the country and in my own community. I rise for these mothers and fathers who wake up every morning, worried about the safety of their children and communities, who will continue to wait with no action due to your decision.

On an average day, as has been stated eloquently, more than 90 Americans are killed by guns. How many more lives will it take until we come to terms with this reality? How many more days must go by until this House takes even one small step in the right direction?

Every day counts. Every life counts. The American people deserve better. The decision to adjourn is shameful. I urge you to get this House back to work to address the gun violence epidemic so we can finally act on the call of "not one more."

CRISES DEMAND ACTION

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans in this House work awfully hard at doing nothing. We face many crises—crises that demand action. We have a crisis with regard to the Zika virus. We have a crisis in Flint, Michigan, where people have been poisoned by lead-contaminated water. We have a gun violence crisis in this country where massacres have become the new norm.

What is the Republicans' response? Nothing. Nothing. Nothing. Nothing.

The only concrete action they have taken is to adjourn the House so they can go on vacation. We shouldn't be going on vacation until we do the people's business.

Shame on the Republican leadership for adjourning this House and not taking up gun safety legislation, not addressing the crisis in Flint, Michigan, and not funding the crisis regarding the Zika virus. The people of this country deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, I call on you to bring the House back, and let's do our work.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, countless families and loved ones in my district are suffering as a result of the recent gun violence that claimed the lives of 5 police officers and injured 11 more officers and civilians in Dallas. The ambush on the Dallas police was the deadliest incident for U.S. law enforcement since the September 11 attacks in our country. Yet House Republicans are leaving Washington today, for a 52-day recess, without taking any action to address the gun violence epidemic that is happening all across the Nation.

The tragedy that occurred in my district, as well as the countless other shootings that we seldom hear about, begs the question: How many more innocent Americans will have to lose their lives before we act to put an end to gun violence?

The answer, in my opinion, should be "none." No more Americans should have to lose their lives. There are a number of proposals in Congress that are available today for the House Republicans to bring to the floor for a vote. This legislation is available now.

Mr. Speaker, countless families and loved ones in my district are suffering as a result of the recent gun violence that claimed the lives of five police officers and injured eleven more officers and civilians in Dallas last week. This ambush on Dallas police was the deadliest incident for U.S. law enforcement since the September 11th attacks.

Yet, House Republicans are leaving Washington today for a fifty-two day recess without taking any action to address the gun violence epidemic happening across our nation. The tragedy that occurred in my district, as well as the countless other shootings that we seldom hear about, begs the question of how many more innocent Americans will have to lose

their lives before we act to put an end to gun violence. The answer, in my opinion, should be none. No more Americans should have to lose their lives.

There are a number of proposals in Congress available today that House Republicans could bring to the floor for a vote. There is legislation available now to bolster the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. There is legislation available now to reinstate a federal ban on assault weapons. There is legislation available now to study the costs of gun violence. Yet, none of these bills have seen the light of day on the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Republican colleagues to do the people's bidding and work cooperatively with Democrats to pass meaningful and comprehensive gun reforms so that we can finally put an end to this senseless violence.

POLITICS RATHER THAN POLICY

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, late Governor of Tennessee Ned McWherter used to say: If you don't want to work, you shouldn't hire out.

Speaker RYAN, if you don't want to work, if your team doesn't want to work, you shouldn't have run for office and hired out.

We are taking off for nearly 8 weeks of vacation when we should be here dealing with gun violence; when we should be dealing with the voting rights extension, which we have not done with elections coming up; when we should be dealing with the Zika virus, which threatens the health of our people; when we should be dealing with the Flint water crisis. We are leaving for 8 weeks of vacation.

This Congress started 8 years ago with terrible political priorities. Rather than policy, it was politics. MITCH MCCONNELL said their job was to see to it that Barack Obama didn't get reelected. What did we do this week? We had hearings about Hillary Clinton and emails. That is politics. We didn't have questions of the U.S. Attorney General about voting rights or gun violence.

If you don't want to work, don't hire out. Ned McWherter was right, Speaker RYAN. You shouldn't have come here without being willing to work.

GIVE US A VOTE

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, do you remember when you were kids in school, and there was this big chart, and you learned how a bill becomes a law? It told you that somebody proposes an idea, and if it gets a majority in committee, it moves on. Then it gets to the floor of the House, and if it gets a majority, it moves on to the other body. Then, if it gets a majority, it goes to the President's desk, and the President signs it.

Take that chart and throw it away because that is not what happens here. We can't get a vote on the floor on gun control. We can't get the people's will listened to. Whether it is gun control or Flint, Michigan, or the Zika virus or anything, we can't get a vote.

All we are saying to the Republican leadership is to give us a vote—up or down, win or lose. The American people want to know where their legislators stand. This is a pressing issue. For us to ignore it is shameful and disgraceful.

This young man, Seth Rich, was just murdered—a young man here who worked in politics. We owe it to his life, to his remembrance, and to all of the other victims of gun violence. We need an up-or-down vote on the floor of the House.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago next week, a guy dressed up as the Joker barged into a theater in Aurora, Colorado, and killed 12 and wounded about 58 others. One of those killed was a young sports reporter named Jessica Ghawi—4 years ago.

Have we had one hearing on gun violence? Have we had one vote on gun violence in 4 years? No. The Republican majority has blocked every effort at just reasonable, sensible things like background checks, or, if you are a terrorist, you don't get a gun. Have we had one vote? Have we had one hearing? No, but people are dying—5 officers last week and 49 people in Orlando the month before that.

We need a hearing. The Republican majority has taken off for 7 weeks. These things have to be addressed. We are not going away. The subject is not going away. It is time for a vote. It is time for a hearing. It is not time for a 7-week recess. Jessica Ghawi deserves more than that.

THE POWER IS IN THE PEOPLE

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I am embarrassed that Congress is going home today for 2 months after having done nothing about this outrageous use of guns in America. We are going home because it is an election year. We have 2 months to be with our constituents.

I hope that all constituents will approach their elected officials and ask them, their Members of Congress, and particularly the Republicans who are holding up this vote: Are you going to vote on this in September when you come back? Are we going to enact these laws? Because, if they are not, you can withhold their vote. You have the power. The power is in the people.

Let's take back our country. Let's ask every elected official, school board

member, city council, and water board, which have jurisdiction over real estate: What have they done to enact gun legislation?

California, which is the State I am from, has taken those actions: we have banned assault weapons; we require background checks; we have waiting periods before you can buy ammunition. We have done more than any other State. Guess what? The courts have upheld this.

We can do this. This is what elected officials are asked to do—to fix things that are broken and, particularly, in a crisis.

You, the voter, take back this country. Make your elected officials respond.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DONOVAN). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to the viewing audience.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 686

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to be removed as a cosponsor of H. Res. 686.

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

There was no objection.

CONGRESS SOLVES PROBLEMS THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT CANNOT

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, Members have been coming forth all afternoon, talking about the fact that our constituents are feeling great anxiety. They feel and they look to Congress, and they think there are some issues here that we can deal with in our communities.

We are going to be having some very serious and deep conversations about some of the concerns that we have, but there are a few issues that this House—the people's House—needs to deal with while our constituents are dealing in their own houses with some of the concerns that are addressed by education, by poverty, by guns.

There are too many guns in their communities. We have been hearing repeatedly that we can close the gun show loophole here in Congress, in the people's House, and we should. We can close the fact that there are people who can fly today who are on no-fly lists. We can change that in the people's House.

We have to get on this, and that is why it is discouraging when there is time—when there are hours and minutes and days—that we are not working on these issues. People look to us. They want us to solve those problems that local government cannot solve alone.

DEMOCRATS WILL NOT BE
SILENCED

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we have a long to-do list before you can leave for the summer recess: we have got to pass legislation to prevent gun violence; we have got to pass legislation to fight the spread of Zika; we have got to pass legislation to address the Flint water crisis and to fund the opioid treatment plans. The clock is ticking—tick, tick, tick—and none of these will get done because you are getting ready for the longest summer recess in at least 60 years without addressing the very pressing issues that Americans really care about.

Republicans' inaction will not prevent Democrats from reminding the entire American Republic that we have got to do the right thing. During the next 7 weeks, we will continue to demand a vote on commonsense measures to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and terrorists. Hashtag, there are too many damned guns in America today.

□ 1600

CONGRATULATING TIMOTHY
THEODORE DUNCAN

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of so many young African American males who are fearful for their lives, who believe that America doesn't realize the exemplary lives that they each live.

I also rise to give an example of one African American male who gives the Virgin Islands tremendous pride today. I am here to honor Virgin Islands native and the greatest power forward of all time, Timothy Theodore Duncan, on his retirement from the National Basketball Association.

Throughout his storied 19-year career, Tim Duncan has won the NBA Rookie of the Year Award, five NBA championship titles, three NBA Final MVP awards, two NBA Most Valuable Player awards, and has earned the distinction of all-time leading scorer for his San Antonio Spurs.

The 15-time NBA All Star is an inspiration to many young Virgin Islanders and, indeed, Americans all over this country and is an integral figure in his own community for his efforts toward promoting interscholastic athletics and education. He is an exemplary gentleman, unselfish on and off the court.

The Virgin Islands community thanks him for his 19-year career in the NBA. We want to show him as an example of what can happen if one individual like himself can be on a street safely here in the United States, the great things that they can do.

THANKING MY CONGRESSIONAL
STAFF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GIBSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my hard-working staff.

Over the past 6 years, I have had the honor and privilege to serve in this House of Representatives. At the end of this term, my time of service as a Member in this body will come to a close, as I honor my self-imposed term-limit pledge.

As I reflect on my congressional service, there has been a constant throughout this time. The first is my wonderful family. And the second is my incredible, selfless staff who have worked with me to serve the good people of our district.

We have a saying in our office, that we only hire people who love people. This may sound simple, but it is amazing, the difference it can make when you have a team of people dedicated to helping others. Every day, they exhibit compassion, kindness, patience, and really take the time to listen to our constituents.

For some of my staff, that was their first job out of college. More than a few started as an intern with us. For others, this job was a return from retirement, yet another chapter in a lifetime of service to this great Nation.

So many of our staff have stayed the entire 6 years, a loyalty for which I am deeply grateful. And those who have moved on have continued to excel, with achievements of which I am very proud. A couple are now on their well-deserved retirement.

When we close out our term, my team will have left a legacy of real, meaningful service to the people of New York and to this Nation. Their accomplishments are far too numerous to name, but I just want to highlight a very small sampling of the work they have accomplished.

Here in the House, we have been part of the effort to ensure our Armed Forces, our servicemen and -women, have the resources and support they need for the missions we ask of them. We have fought tireless battles to help all of our veterans, including our Blue Water Navy veterans who have been left out of Agent Orange coverage.

We have helped improve mental health care and made significant progress combating the scourge of opiate addiction that is devastating our communities. We have helped both our family farms and our small businesses and improved health care for seniors.

We passed the first bill that addresses Lyme disease and other tickborne illnesses. And we fought to empower students and teachers and to ensure our students weren't burdened with onerous, high-stakes testing in our schools.

Mr. Speaker, in our district, when we were hit with the devastating storms—Hurricanes Irene, Lee, and Sandy—my staff joined me on the front lines, from helping residents in the immediate aftermath of the storms to ensuring they received the assistance they needed to recover over the following years. We were committed to ensuring every community came back stronger than they were the day before the storm.

And we have continued other efforts. We have helped expand broadband access, and we have helped with conservation efforts. We have helped fix our roads and bridges and advocated for a countless number of grants to be awarded to our local businesses, nonprofits, fire departments, and the like.

My staff has also completed over 7,000 cases for my constituents. Mr. Speaker, I can tell you we have had so many constituents come up to my wife, Mary Jo, and I and tell us about the work that our staff has done that, in many cases, helped change their lives.

They are exceptional people, one and all. They are model public servants. I want to close with reading their names into our CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for this day so that they get a small piece of the recognition they so richly deserve.

Before I do, Mr. Speaker, I also want to say thank you to each and every one of them and their families. Our communities are strong and our Nation is better because of their service.

Mr. Speaker, the members of Team Gibson, in alphabetical order: Robert Allard; Allison Argust; Sergeant First Class Dennis Bartow, U.S. Army National Guard; Katherine Better; Jeffrey Bishop; Steven Bulger, my district director; Paula Brown; Sergeant First Class (Retired) George Christian, U.S. Army National Guard; Nicholas Czajka; Sergeant First Class (Retired) Kathy Fallon, U.S. Army National Guard; Todd Felter; Remy Fortin; Brad Gentile; Nathan Gil; William Gonzales, New York State Trooper, retired; James Haggerty, United States Marine Corps, Korean war; Ridge Harris; Patricia Hohmann; Colonel Stephen Ledbetter, U.S. Army; Joseph Levi, a wounded Army combat veteran; Shay Mason; Major Patrick McGuigan, U.S. Army; Ann Mueller; Pdraic O'Brien, now a New York State Trooper; Lieutenant Colonel Curt Owens, United States Army Reserves; Barbara Palmer; Megan Paulsen; Corinne Boughton Penston; Duane Postupak; Patricia Raucci; Peter Ryan; Brian Scarlett; Major Matthew Schardt, U.S. Army; Christine Schiff; Rebecca Shaw; Matthew Sheehy; Steven Stallmer; Theodore Stephan; Major Ricardo Turner, U.S. Army; Stephanie Valle, my chief of staff; Carol Waller; Mark Westcott; Anthony Zampelli; and Patrick Ziegler.

May God bless them all.

I yield back the balance of my time.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my dear friend from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

IN MEMORY OF SHARON RUNNER

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for so graciously allowing me the time here today. Indeed, it is a timely moment, and I want to share it with the American people.

Indeed, it has been a difficult week for California and for the leadership of women who we have seen come forward in our State over recent years, especially in the political arena.

My colleague Representative MIMI WALTERS from southern California earlier this week paid tribute to Marian Bergeson, a great political leader in our State in her time who we lost several days ago.

Well, now we have lost another gem, and that is Sharon Oden Runner. I learned of her passing this morning.

She underwent, some years ago, a very, very daring and amazing lung transplant to overcome the condition she had. She fought hard all these years and did quite well with that until recent times.

So this tribute today to her is for her, her family, and that memory.

Sharon and I came up together in the California State Legislature. Back in 2002, we both won terms in the State Assembly. She was just a good pal right out of the chute there.

As new freshman members, we were getting to know our way around Sacramento and the State legislative process. Several of the freshman bonded. There was a pack of us guys and Sharon, you know, because there are a lot more guys in politics, it seems.

So Sharon, being just a few years older than the rest of us guys, she kind of seemed like the one that was keeping us a little more in line as we would go about doing our business in the State legislature, cutting up a little bit here and there once in a while amidst the seriousness or at the events you do around town at night meeting other people and such.

So I soon dubbed her "Ma Runner," lovingly and affectionately, and she took that okay. And she was the one who would say, You boys, now, you stay in line here, okay?

But we all had a lot of fun together and worked hard together and fought the battles together in the California legislative process.

It was really fun to see her ascend. When our current majority leader here, KEVIN MCCARTHY, became our assembly leader there, Sharon ascended right there beside him as the assistant leader for the Republicans as well. And she really did well in that role and was effective and just really good to get along with and made sure that all the

members had what they needed in order to do well.

Sharon's spirit was one of always being so positive, reaching out to everybody. She worked to get more women elected to the legislature as well.

And she was one with very strong moral convictions as well, to make sure that her faith in God was something that she brought forward with her policy and was something that wasn't very far away in how she conducted herself and for her family and for those that she came into contact with.

So we had that opportunity to serve 6 years together in the State Assembly. And then, with term limits being what they are, we soon met up again in that legislative role over on the California State Senate side.

Now, at that point, Sharon was again struggling with her lung battles there and got that amazing lung transplant, that life that was given to her by a donor that she carried forward for these years until finally the issues became too complex. And, again, we lost her this morning.

So our hearts do go out to George, Micah, Bekah, all of her friends, all of her extended family. Those who had a chance to know her and were touched and graced by her, we are better for it. We know that we will always cherish the memories.

George and Sharon had a unique time together as the first husband-wife team in the California State Legislature. He was in the Senate for a while, and she was in the Assembly. A lot of history was made by them through measures they were able to put on the ballot, the things they always fought for morally and policy-wise. They will always be remembered as working together.

Now, as George soldiers on, our hearts are with you. We wish you God's strength and peace and only the sweetest memories to your whole family.

We remember Sharon today. God bless her, and God bless her memory.

□ 1615

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I do so much appreciate my friend, DOUG LAMALFA, a very touching tribute to what is obviously just a wonderful individual that we will be missing.

For some time now the Democrats have been doing 1-minute speeches. On the last day we vote during the week, we are allowed to have unlimited 1-minute speeches, and for—I don't know—2 or 3 hours, my friends across the aisle have been doing 1-minute speeches, and I am so pleased that they are doing that. I think that is terrific. That is so much better than taking away the civil rights of people who have the right to assemble on the floor, to have sessions, to vote on bills, to debate bills because the previous violations of the rules by my friends across the aisle were just unprecedented.

I would like to commend our Speaker for this aspect, comparing what he did and did not do today compared to what

Speaker PELOSI did the last day of our session in July of 2008 because today I know leadership and staff saw the massive number of Democrats assembled to give speeches here, and the rule allows for that. There was no effort to shut down debate, gavel us out early, but that is exactly what Speaker NANCY PELOSI did in July of 2008.

We had assembled a group. It may not have been quite as big as the Democrats had today, but we had a group over here, and under the rules at that time, they were 5-minute speeches, which could still be done, but they chose 1-minutes. We signed up for 5-minute speeches. When the Speaker NANCY PELOSI saw a number of Republicans, appropriately under the rule, here in order, signed up. We weren't just sitting there. We had signed up and were sitting in order as we are supposed to. She immediately gavelled down the proceeding early, violated the rule that allowed us to speak in the order, just as the Democrats did today, and this is the way it is supposed to be.

Yet, earlier this month we had our friends across the aisle—and I haven't seen this written up much, but they took positions at their microphones and at the Republican microphones. We tried to go into session, and we even had Democrats not only sitting where Republicans were supposed to be seated on the Republican side, we had them grasp microphones to prevent Republicans from being able to be recognized.

Finally, in the wee hours, we had the Speaker recognize a Republican chairman. He couldn't get a microphone. He is standing over here. Why? Because of the violation of the rules as the Democrats tried—not just tried. They were preventing Republicans from exercising their civil rights under Jefferson's rules of the House, under congressional rules, and our constituents had a right to be heard, just as our friends across the aisle had a right to be heard today.

Now, in those 1-minute speeches, the massive array we heard this afternoon, there were a few common themes, and I think that is wonderful. Football is my favorite sport. I enjoyed it in junior high, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12th grade, enjoyed every year of it. It is such a team sport.

We saw a team acting in concert, working together. They all had their talking points. They all hit them and hit them hard. Some were very unfair, but they, from their standpoint, were acting as a team. But for one thing, they kept using the term "vacation," that the House is going on vacation. One said a month vacation, I think, but I know I heard one say 7-week vacation, another one said 8-week vacation. They weren't all together on how long they were attributing to be vacation.

I have told some of my friends at FOX News and different news commentators that when you criticize the month of August, that is traditionally, as I understand it—going back to the

early days of Congress, that has been a month when traditionally Congress has not been in session. That is why I love September.

In July I remember the disastrous bill, when John Boehner was Speaker, had the supercommittee, the sequestrators that were going to gut our military. I will never forget it, after I was rather upset that that bill was going to gut our military, our Speaker said: Listen to me. Listen to me, those sequestrators will never happen.

Well, I knew they would. I said they would. But we passed some bad stuff in July in prior years. I think we have done much better this year.

As far as this “vacation,” I am intrigued to know that that is what the Democrats are going to do with the time we are not in session, one 8-week vacation, as one of my colleagues across the aisle said. Eight-week vacation, that is what they think it is when we are not in session.

But from my standpoint—and I am looking at my friend, DOUG LAMALFA, over here. I know from his impression and other people that I work with on this side of the aisle every day that we don't consider not being in session a vacation. August, man, that is a great opportunity to hear from your constituents. I know we have at least one field hearing.

I was requested to come meet again with some of the Egyptian leadership, and I have been urged to go visit with some of our friends in Israel again. I don't know if I will make that.

This is a terrific time to get away from the inside-the-beltway thinking. It is only when you get away from the inside-the-beltway thinking that so many Congresses have gotten addicted to that you hear from real common sense. Back home, it is common sense. Inside the beltway, it is sense because it is certainly not common.

It is a great time when we are in recess to reassess in the recess, and September ends up being a good month. We don't normally pass terrible bills in September. It has happened, but normally when people come back after having to visit—because we are not in session, people know we are not in session. When they hear from constituents during the month of August, they are much more ready in September to do what we should have been doing.

So I know my friends across the aisle, they have their talking points, going on this big vacation. They consider it a vacation. We consider it an incredible opportunity to clear our heads, to get this inside-the-beltway thinking out of our heads, hear from our constituents, have some field hearings in different places in the country. I find it helpful.

Last year, the last week of August, I was invited to meet with President Sisi in Egypt and the Coptic Christian Pope, meet with him again. I was told at the time that I was the only Member of Congress—I don't know if it is still true—who had been allowed to meet

with the Director of Egyptian Intelligence. Anyway, I don't know if I will be able to get back there or not during this recess, but it was incredibly invaluable.

I came away from that meeting in Egypt determined to do anything I could to stop the Iranian treaty that was not only going to devastate the Middle East, that was already starting to spark nuclear proliferation, because all of our former allies, before this President got ahold of them, they were saying: Wow, we can't count on the United States anymore. Iran's going to have nuclear weapons. That is what this has made sure. So we have to start figuring out what we are going to do to get nuclear weapons for ourselves. The worst possible result.

The Iran treaty is a treaty. It was a treaty, it is a treaty, and that has become even more clear as Iran has violated so many aspects of the Iranian treaty. Unfortunately, the Senate refused to recognize that it was a treaty. They considered the fine Senator CORKER's bill that actually turned the Constitution upside down and allowed a treaty to proceed as if it were effective and had been ratified with only a third of the Senate voting to ratify it instead of the two-thirds that the Constitution requires.

It was that visit in Egypt with their top officials that just clarified in my head that we have to stop the Iranian treaty for the good of the United States, for the good of the Middle East, for the good of our allies, our Muslim allies in North Africa and the Middle East, and for our dear friends in Israel. But so far it hasn't happened, and Western civilization and the advances we know are more threatened than previously.

The second talking point that we heard repeatedly from our friends across the aisle during so many of the 1-minute speeches was the talk about we are leaving here without doing a thing about the Zika virus. I don't fault anybody who has been standing up here and repeating the talking point that we haven't done anything about the Zika virus, we haven't done anything about the Zika virus, because there are so many bills that get brought to the floor.

There are so many amendments, so many things, it is just virtually impossible to get through them all. I read as many as I can. Some people have told me I am probably reading more bills than most people, but you just can't get through them all. There is this mentality that if we are in session, we have to be passing bills. Any day we are in session, we have to be passing the bills.

Talking to people who were here before, they said it wasn't always like that; that you could have hearings, you could have investigations, you could have a lot of meaningful things going on without people being forced to come over here and vote. But that is the mentality now. Whether it is Demo-

crats in the majority, Republicans in the majority, gee, if we are in session, we have to vote on stuff.

So with that understanding, it's easy to understand how so many Democrats had missed and didn't realize that, actually, we did vote. Not only did we vote to address the Zika virus, we voted to appropriate \$1.1 billion toward dealing with a potential Zika virus pandemic. So for research, for vaccine, for all of these things.

So I don't fault anybody. I know nobody would have come down here and said we didn't do anything about the Zika virus, intending to mislead. They just didn't remember that we did vote to spend \$1.1 billion dealing with that issue.

Also, probably the most frequently mentioned thing during the last 2 or 3 hours of speeches by my friends across the aisle was regarding guns and gun violence. One of the nicest guys in Congress even used a quote from somebody else in saying that Republicans are “frozen in their own indifference.”

Now, that is deeply troubling. I don't know a single Republican who is indifferent to gun violence.

□ 1630

It is just that we look at Chicago, we look at Washington, D.C., we look at where the most murders are occurring in the country, where more Black lives that matter are taken, and we look at those places and we see whatever they are doing about gun violence, it is the wrong thing, because they have an epidemic of gun violence.

What are they doing?

Oh, wow; they are the most restrictive cities regarding gun violence in the country.

Now, in my home State, dear Dallas is still mourning the loss of five precious lives of law enforcement officers needlessly, senselessly taken by an evil that was encouraged by chants and songs repeated over and over and over talking about police as pigs in a blanket, fry them like bacon, encouraging the devastation and murder of police officers. Well, in Texas, that is a capital murder. And we do use capital punishment.

So it is not that Republicans are frozen in our indifference. It is just that we look at the kind of gun laws that have been posed and pushed by our friends across the aisle and we see that the places that their laws have been enacted by Democratic leadership in those cities, with massive deaths, especially of the precious Black lives that matter; but they don't want to talk about those.

You don't have to look too far to see what has been going on. It is offensive to those of us who are not frozen in our indifference on gun violence. We want it stopped.

When you get beyond the pejoratives that are being muttered on this floor against Republicans and you start looking at what the actual news is so you can learn what would be the best

way to deal with gun violence, you see this article today from National Review: “Federal Agencies Can’t Keep Track of Their Own Guns.”

The article says:

“The federal government needs to crack down on guns. Its own stockpile, anyway. The Washington Examiner reports: The federal government has spent \$1.5 million on guns and ammo since 2006, and lost nearly 1,000 weapons along the way, including Uzis, assault rifles, and grenade launchers, according to the House Oversight Committee chairman.

“In a hearing to urge tightened control of weapons, Representative JASON CHAFFETZ, chair of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, said, ‘The loss of a single firearm is cause for concern—the loss of what amounts to roughly five a month is unacceptable.’

“These guns were acquired by the Department of Homeland Security, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons, for use by their agents. Inventory is managed by the General Services Administration, the agency tasked with managing the affairs of other federal agencies. It’s important for certain federal agents to be armed if their job requires it. But it’s also important for the federal government to keep track of its expensive supplies, especially when those supplies have destructive potential. And these aren’t your run-of-the-mill weapons. Uzis, grenade launchers, the ever-nebulous assault rifles: plenty of firepower for agents who have dangerous jobs. They simply vanished, at an alarming clip: 1,000 guns lost over the last 10 years come out to just under two per week. So sure, maybe it is easier to get a Glock than a book”—although, that is simply not true—“but only if you’re neighbors with the local branch of the Department of Homeland Security.”

This article—and it is not even a recent article—in the Washington Examiner by Paul Bedard says: “Gun prosecutions under Obama down more than 45 percent.”

I haven’t been able to find anything that indicates differently; that they have stepped up prosecution. My understanding is they continue to decline, but they are at least much lower than they were under President Bush.

This article says:

“Despite his calls for greater gun control, including a new assault weapons ban that extends to handguns, President Obama’s administration has turned away from enforcing gun laws, cutting weapons prosecutions some 40 percent since a high of about 11,000 under former President Bush.

“If you are not going to enforce the laws on the books, then don’t start talking about a whole new wave of new laws,” said a gun rights advocate.

“In the wake of the horrific mass killing at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, Democratic lawmakers have begun pre-

paring a new collection of anti-gun laws, including renewing the assault weapons ban, banning the purchase of high-capacity clips that spring bullets into guns, and tightening rules on who can buy weapons.”

The thing is this administration was given a heads up twice over the older Tsarnaev. He has been radicalized. But because of the purge of the training material that the FBI has experienced—Michele Bachmann and I and LYNN WESTMORELAND—and TRENT was there for a while—we were going through the materials that had been purged.

It was ridiculous, what they classified them. So we couldn’t tell you, Mr. Speaker, exactly the things. Some were silly cartoons and things. But speaking hypothetically, you had verses from the Koran. Actually, there were verses from the Koran that were eliminated. They were found to be troubling to the people that were purging the materials.

And who does this administration look to?

They look to CAIR, the Council on American Islamic Relations. They look to Imam Majid, former head of the Islamic Society of North America. They look at a number of groups and individuals who were listed as coconspirators in the largest prosecution of support for terrorism in the United States history. The prosecution got guilty verdicts in, I believe, November 2008, and we changed Presidents, and Eric Holder came in as the new Attorney General; and instead of going after those listed coconspirators that both the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and the district court had said there is plenty of evidence to support their being named as coconspirators, they didn’t go after them. They dropped it. They let it go.

Those are the people that are advising this administration about what to purge out of the training materials for the CIA, the intelligence, the State Department, Homeland Security, the Justice Department.

Our folks don’t know what they are looking for when they are told to go find out if somebody has been radicalized. Twice, at least, the Orlando shooter was brought to the attention of the FBI. These are caring, well-informed law officers, except when it comes to radical Islam, because you have CAIR and others making sure they don’t know what to look for when they are looking for radicalized Islamic terrorists.

If materials weren’t purged, if people who had dedicated their lives to studying radical Islam who are not actually Muslims themselves, if they were allowed to train as they once were and educate and help our officers of the Federal Government know what to look for to find a radicalized Islamic terrorist, then the Boston bombing would not have happened, the Orlando shooting would not have happened, the San Bernardino killings would have not happened.

This administration has done grave danger, grave harm to this country.

Yet, it is like the “Wizard of Oz.” Don’t look at what is going on behind the curtain. Look at this shiny object, the gun. Oh, they used a pressure cooker. Well, never mind. Still, let’s talk about the gun.

Well, if we are going to be honest and you feel like whatever a radical Islamist used to kill people, that is what we are going to talk about. We are not going to talk about radical Islam.

By the way, for my Democratic friends who called me a racist because I said the Orlando shooter was a radical Islamist, that he had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State, we learn when people point out mistakes we have made. But Islam is not a race. So it makes no sense to call me a racist, as my friends across the aisle did when I pointed out that the Orlando shooter pledged allegiance to the Islamic State. They were thinking that that meant a race. And it is not a race. It is a religion. For a radical Islamist, it is really the makings of a theocracy.

Then, this article from today by Neil Munro out of Breitbart says: “Obama’s Flack Claims Credit for Dallas Policing As Murders Spike 40 Percent.”

I have been so impressed with the Dallas police chief. The things he said, the way he has comported is exactly the way I would hope a police chief under such a terrible situation would comport himself. But this is a real story because he has been utilizing President Obama’s practices for policing.

As this article points out:

“President Barack Obama’s preferred policing practices deserve the credit for changing the crime rate in Dallas, his spokesman says. But spokesman Josh Earnest does not seem to be aware the city’s”—Dallas—“murder rate has climbed 40 percent this year as Obama’s preferred policing practices were implemented.”

Some of the 2016 dead in Dallas had their pictures in this article.

The article goes on and says:

“The spokesman’s July 13 statement came in response to a reporter asking a question about the value of the policing changes that Obama is pressuring state and local police forces to adopt. ‘This latest tragedy, the murder of the five cops, took place in a community, Dallas, that the White House actually touted for having done a good job implementing new policing rules? I mean, doesn’t that suggest that they’re either ineffective or insufficient to prevent these kinds of things from happening?’ asked the reporter.

“The police ‘reforms that have been put in place in Dallas have made a difference.’”

The reforms that have been put in place in Dallas that have made a difference is a quote from Josh Earnest, the spokesman for the President.

He goes on and says:

“That is a reflection of why it’s important for other communities to make this issue a priority in the same way

that Dallas has. It's making a difference in the lives and the people in Dallas, because it's not just those incidents of concern about police conduct that have declined; the violent crime rates declined, too."

That is from Josh Earnest.

The story goes on. Now that we have finished Josh Earnest's ignorance of what really happened in Texas, in Dallas, the article says:

"Actually, violent crime is up across the board in Obama's model city of Dallas. According to The Dallas Morning News, 67 people were murdered in the first five months of 2016, compared to 48 in the first five months of 2015. Also, robbery is up from 1,576 to 1,805, and aggravated assault is up from 1,501 incidents to 1,747 incidents. The relatively good news is that sexual assault nudged down from 336 incidents in 2015 to 312 incidents in 2016.

□ 1645

"The 2016 spike comes after the murder rate jumped almost 17 percent in 2015, bringing the city's death toll up to 136 dead for 2015. The 2016 crime spike is so large that the city's now famous police chief, David Brown, has faced pressure to resign.

"Chief Brown's Career Has Lived By Crime Stats, and It Will Die By Crime Stats," said a March headline in the Dallas Observer. According to a March 28 report in the Dallas Morning News, Dallas Police Chief David Brown's plan to fight a drastic rise in violent crime—including a nearly 75 percent jump in murders—by moving hundreds of officers to different shifts and on to task forces is creating an uproar within his department.

"The Black Police Association has historically been supportive of Brown but called for his resignation Monday hours before the group met with the three other police associations.

"Council member Philip Kingston expressed concern Monday about Brown's plans. 'None of what you've presented here today is sustainable,' Kingston said."

Anyway, it goes on to discuss this.

But I am very impressed with the Dallas police chief. I think he has comported himself admirably under such horrendous circumstances and while going through such grief, losing five of his first-responding law officers.

But people need to know that the kind of things that were being urged by my friends across the aisle, that Obama believes are going to make a big difference, well, they made a difference. Murders are up 40 percent now in Dallas since they followed the Obama rules for policing. Very, very tragic.

I appreciated Dallas Police Chief David Brown's statement when he challenged Black Lives Matter.

"During a press conference Monday, Brown issued a challenge to Black Lives Matter protesters demanding change around policing in their communities. 'We're hiring. Get off that

protest line and put an application in. We'll put you in your neighborhood, and we'll help you resolve some of the problems you're protesting about.'"

Apparently, according to this article by Katie Pavlich, Brown grew up in the inner city and decided to become a police officer during the national crack cocaine epidemic. He saw a problem in his community, and he wanted to fix it.

Decades later, he is in charge of one of the most successful police departments in the country—that is, of course, before he started following the Obama administration's suggestions for effective policing in America.

Another problem that is rather dramatic—we feel it in Texas, but we are not alone. It is a problem across the country, illustrated in this article by Bob Price from July 5, "200,000 Criminal Aliens Booked Into Texas Jails Over Past 5 Years, Says Department of Public Safety."

"Nearly 200,000 criminal aliens have been booked into local Texas jails over the past 5 years. Those numbers included more than 155,000 criminal illegal aliens." Just shocking.

So this administration has lost—well, I guess it goes back to 2006. So most of the 1,000 weapons were lost during this administration's term, some of them on Bush's watch. But the 2,000 or so weapons—that we know have already killed at least one Federal agent—that were forced by this administration—and someday it is all going to come out. Fast and Furious is all going to be exposed at some point, and this administration is going to fall further in the estimation of its effectiveness.

We are already seeing things like, oh, here are our policing rules; they follow them; murder rates go up. Violent crime seems to go up, nearly all of it.

The border is porous. We have people pouring into the country. The Islamic State has made clear they are making use of our porous border and our willingness to harm ourselves by bringing in refugees that will include Islamic State terrorists. I think we need to take them seriously.

This article from June 28 from James Carafano says:

"Flash back 3 years ago, and remember when the Secretary of Homeland Security declared 'the border has never been stronger.' Well, if what is going on at America's border with Mexico is a success, Americans should shudder to think what failure looks like.

"Unaccompanied children crossing the border is up over 70 percent this year. Other categories and overall numbers are on the rise as well, reflecting significant increases since 2014. And it is not just the numbers that are troubling to Americans. They are worried about national security threats on the southern border.

"The groups are not just drug mafias—they smuggle, steal, hijack, rob, or kill (anything that makes a profit). And it is not just an American problem. By some estimates, since 2007, the

cartels are responsible for over 100,000 deaths."

And this is something that a number of my Republican friends, especially all of us from Texas, were having meetings about off the record with the Director of Homeland Security and the White House, demanding that President Bush do a better job of securing our border. And they were actually making progress up through 2008.

Then along came a new President. And they keep telling us, like this quote, the border has never been stronger. But the true facts belie that. We have diseases popping up where they shouldn't in places where immigrants who have come in illegally have come.

And then, if that is not bad enough, this report from The Federalist: "U.S. Negligence is Feeding ISIS' Global Appeal." And it goes on and documents in the article here just how bad negligence in this administration has become.

I couldn't agree more with one of the later paragraphs and the subtitle: "Weakness Invites Aggression. Muslim extremists around the world see that the American Government and much of American society do not take this threat"—radical Islam—"seriously."

Paraphrasing, they talk about guns, guns, guns and won't look at the person carrying or using the gun.

The article says: "... and can't or won't admit its theological origins. Rather than feeling on the run, ISIS and the men it inspires to jihad must feel emboldened by this.

"The Left continually insists, as Muslim Advocates President Farhana Khera did at least week's Senate hearing, that by talking about Islam in any capacity when discussing terrorism, we are playing into ISIS' hands. The argument is that groups like ISIS and al-Qaeda want nothing more than for the West and moderate Muslims to attack Islam. To what end isn't clear.

"Al-Qaeda may be frustrated it can't get the West to believe its motives—last week it released a special edition of their magazine, Inspire"—this is Al Qaeda—"in which it called on jihadists to 'avoid targeting places and crowds where minorities are generally found' so their religious motives for the terrorist attack will be believed. But this isn't because al-Qaeda wants to instigate animosity between Muslims and the West. It's doing that by inspiring jihad. It simply wants the West," especially those of us in the United States, "to believe al-Qaeda is fighting a holy war."

They believe they are fighting a holy war.

"After the Paris nightclub attacks in November, Kerry vaguely described ISIS' motives, arguing that while the Charlie Hebdo attacks 'perhaps' had a 'legitimacy' or 'rationale' that you could attach yourself to, indicating that murder is an appropriate reaction to insulting Mohammed, the November attacks were 'absolutely indiscriminate.'"

Well, this administration, they do not understand the importance of securing the border. They don't understand, if they are going to avoid being complete hypocrites, that if you are going to outlaw whatever gun a radical Islamist uses to terrorize and kill Americans, if you are going to outlaw those, then next you have to file the bill that makes the possession or purchase of a pressure cooker illegal. And we really need to go back to 9/11; they used box cutters.

Because if we are going to totally continue in this mode of refusing to recognize the problem with the murderer, the Islamic terrorist murderer, and look at only whatever weapon that murderer is using, then we are going to have to keep banning things. I am sure machetes, like were used to kill hundreds of thousands of people in Rwanda, we will have to outlaw them at some point. It will go on and on as long as we continue to ignore the true threat here to American lives in radical Islam.

And I know it sounds good. "No fly, no buy," that is clever. That is cute. But then when you have the Attorney General in front of your committee and you are wanting to know, what do you use to decide who is on the no-fly list, you can't get answers from the prior Attorney General, you can't get answers from the administration. They won't tell you.

But they want Americans to get behind this movement to allow a bureaucrat, unelected, behind the scenes—we don't even know who is doing it—to make a list of people they don't want to have guns. Maybe we could get Lois Lerner over there to help. I am sure a lot of people would love that. Make a list of who you don't want to have guns.

Unfortunately, we have seen the numbers that indicate most of the people on the no-fly list are people this administration should not have let into the country.

If we are going to do something about the murderers, let's get serious about it. Let's address radical Islam. Let's secure our border. Let's start enforcing the gun laws we have.

And let's allow the FBI to be trained to recognize what a radical Islamist believes, what they are reading, what they are doing, who they are following online, what mosque they are going to where more people are radicalized. Those are important things. And until this administration allows that to happen, we are going to keep losing precious American lives.

It has to stop. And if it is not guns, it is pressure cookers, box cutters, machetes, underwear bombs. We find out, you know, these terrorists, these radical Islamists, they have learned how to make bombs.

And on top of all of that, we have the President determined to release as many people who want to kill Americans as he possibly can out of Guantanamo Bay. Under the rules of war for

civilized societies, when someone declares war on your country and you capture any of their warriors, you hold on to them, in civilized society, until such time as their friends and allies say we are no longer at war. Then you let them go.

And if their friends and allies keep fighting for 30 years, you hold on to them for 30 years, and then maybe they can help persuade them to stop fighting. But you don't let warriors go while the war is still going on.

Because, as we have seen—and it was repugnant to me to have a spokesman for this administration say, basically, well, we can't say that people we have released from Guantanamo have killed Americans, but I guess we could say, in essence, that people we have released—well, that Americans would not be dead if we hadn't released certain people from Guantanamo.

□ 1700

My word, let's quit playing the games and quit releasing people who want to kill Americans, who are at war with us, who were at war with us when they were captured, and whose friends are still at war with us.

Let's hold them at Guantanamo until their friends say, "We are no longer at war." Then they can be released, unless they have committed war crimes. If they have, then at that point we will try them for those crimes like Nuremberg. That is what a civilized society does. You don't release warriors to go kill more Americans while the war is going on.

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

GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, this is the last hour that Congress will meet before the 7-week recess that the Republicans scheduled for today. We are going to devote this last hour to focus on an issue incredibly important to the communities of the people we represent and to this country, and that is the issue of gun violence.

As you may recall, Mr. Speaker, we had a sit-in where we came to the House floor to protest the congressional inaction in moving forward on sensible gun safety legislation, to bring attention, to break through this logjam and force our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to bring these bills to the floor for an up-or-down vote.

We tried motions to recommit and efforts to add these pieces of legislation to bills that were moving as amendments and every mechanism we could to try to force some action because the American people are demanding action—asking—demanding that we do

something in the face of the epidemic of gun violence in this country.

We talk a lot about gun violence, but I think it is important to recognize this is a uniquely American problem. We kill each other in this country with guns 297 times more than Japan, 49 times more than France, and 33 times more than Israel, just to give you some comparisons. Every day, 297 people in America are shot with a gun, and each day, 89 of these people die. On average, 31 Americans are murdered with guns every day, and 151 are treated for gun assault in an emergency room. Thirty thousand Americans die every year at the hands of a gun, and the United States firearm homicide rate is 20 times higher than the combined rates of 22 countries that are our peers in wealth and population. So it is important, as we make this final plea, to understand that this epidemic of gun violence is a uniquely American problem.

We just marked, the day before yesterday, the 1-month anniversary of the assault in Orlando at the Pulse nightclub that took the lives of 49 young people. We just marked the horrific occurrence in Dallas that took the lives of five American heroes, Dallas police officers. It feels like every day there is another mass shooting or a gun tragedy that we hear about and read about in this country.

What we ask the Republican House leadership is to bring two bills to the floor. There are, I think, 217 bills in total that will respond to gun violence in a variety of different ways, but we said let's start with the easy pieces of legislation, legislation that is widely supported by the American people that will make a real difference in reducing gun violence in this country and keeping guns out of the hands of people who shouldn't have them—that is, universal background checks to make sure that someone doesn't get a gun who is not permitted to have a gun under our laws, and keeping them out of the hands of domestic abusers, criminals, and suspected terrorists.

The second one is the no fly, no buy. It says, look, if you are on a terrorist watch list and we have determined you are too dangerous to get on an airplane, then you are certainly too dangerous to go into a gun store and buy any gun you want.

So those two pieces of legislation, which are really common sense, would be an important first step to demonstrate to the American people that we understand our responsibility to take some action to reduce gun violence in this country and to keep guns out of the hands of people who should not have them.

Rather than taking up those bills, regrettably, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle adjourned, and they went flying out that door so they could go home and enjoy a holiday in the summer with their family and friends without ever taking up a single piece of legislation to address gun violence.

We tried in every way to say to our colleagues: Bring these bills to the

floor for a vote. If you don't support them, make your arguments against them. Let the American people hear you defend that we shouldn't have universal background checks and that it is okay for someone on the terrorist watch list to buy a gun. But come to the floor, make your argument, and vote. That is what we get sent here to do. Give us a vote.

Instead, they went out that door, and by doing so, by failing to act, they dishonored the memory of the thousands and thousands of Americans who have lost their lives to gun violence.

Mr. and Mrs. Wright, Maria and Fred Wright, were here the day before yesterday on the 1-month anniversary of Orlando. They came to the Capitol rather than spending time at home continuing to grieve about the murder of their son, Jerald, at the Pulse nightclub. They came here to talk to Members of Congress. They wrote an op-ed that was published on the day of their visit to Washington.

They said: "While in D.C., we don't want just thoughts and prayers from Members of Congress. We want them to look us in the eyes and tell us: How will they work to make our Nation safer against gun violence? How will they perform their constitutional duty to 'insure domestic tranquility' and 'promote the general welfare'—some of the main roles of government according to our Constitution? How will they work to stand up to the extremist gun lobby and urge their fellow Members to do the same?"

That is what they wrote: Look in our eyes. They lost their son, and what Congress did, regrettably, is nothing. They recessed for 7 weeks.

Mr. Speaker, we have a moral obligation to protect the lives and well-being of our constituents. That is our most sacred responsibility as Members of Congress.

We do that in a variety of different ways. We do that by responding to public health crises, like the Zika virus, which we also failed to do. We do that by making sure people can have safe drinking water in places like Flint and cities all across this country, which we failed to do. We do that by protecting our constituents from the ravages of gun violence in this country, and we did nothing.

We have a responsibility as Members of Congress, when faced with these sorts of epidemics, to do something. People who are living in communities all across this country, who are living with the consequences of this gun violence, say: What are you doing to stop it?

They know we can't pass one law that is going to stop everything, but, taken together, we can pass legislation—particularly these two bills—that will substantially reduce the likelihood that dangerous people will get guns and harm the communities we represent.

I will continue to add my voice to this fight, as I know many members of our caucus will.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON). He really has led our effort as the chair of the Democratic caucus on gun violence prevention and someone who has been a great champion in this effort.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him also for taking the time and the effort to put this Special Order together on such an important issue, important to all Americans.

I was a little bit taken aback. I came down to the floor early to participate in this Special Order, and I heard my friend from across the aisle who preceded us in Special Orders talking about the effort on the part of Democrats today in our 1-minute remarks of pushing for a vote on the issue of gun violence prevention.

Mr. CICILLINE, I think, laid it out clearly what it is we are trying to do. We want a vote on two bills. One is a bill that would require background checks for anyone who purchases a firearm through a commercial sale. So it would expand existing law that says that you have to have a background check if you purchase a firearm at a licensed dealer to include other commercial sales: ads in a newspaper, online purchases, or gun show purchases.

Then the other bill is the bill that has been referred to as no fly, no buy, that says, if you are too dangerous in the eyes of the FBI to fly on an airplane, then you shouldn't be able to go into a gun store, pass a background check, and buy any gun that you want.

My friend from across the aisle said that this was clever and cute. Mr. Speaker, make no mistake about it: this is not clever nor is it cute. This is serious business. People are dying every day at the hands of someone using a firearm.

In the 3½ years since 20 elementary schoolchildren were murdered at Sandy Hook in Connecticut, 1,196 mass shootings have taken place in our country. Over 34,000 people have been killed by someone using a gun. We have had over 500 legislative days. What have we done during that time? We have had 31—31—moments of silence for those people who were murdered, but we have had zero votes on the issue of gun violence prevention, not one debate and not one vote on expanding background checks.

The gentleman across the aisle, I think, used some misleading statements when he talked today. He said that we should enforce the laws that are on the books. Well, when the background check bill was put into the law, there weren't many people buying guns online. As a matter of fact, we weren't buying much online. It was a long time ago, and online shopping had not come about as it is today, so the law didn't include that. So, obviously, we need to look at change in bills as we go.

What we want to do is we want to make sure that criminals, terrorists, and the dangerously mentally ill have a difficult time getting guns. The best

way to do that, and our first line of defense in accomplishing that, is background checks.

You know, Mr. Speaker. You have been in the courtroom. You have seen these things happen before. You know this issue inside and out. They work.

Every day, 170 felons are prohibited from purchasing firearms because of background checks. Every day, 50 domestic abusers are prohibited from buying firearms because of the background checks. Yet they can leave the gun store, they can go online or go to a gun show, and they can buy the same gun without a background check that they were prohibited from buying in the gun store.

My friend from across the aisle, I think, was also misleading when he said that Democrats want to focus on the gun. There is no focusing on the gun. We know that guns don't get up and shoot somebody on their own. We are trying to focus on the person trying to buy that gun. That is why we want to do a background check. If the person is a criminal, if the person is a terrorist, if the person is a drug addict or a domestic abuser or dangerously mentally ill, the law says then they can't buy a gun at a licensed dealer.

Well, we have got this gaping loophole where they can leave the licensed dealer, they can go to the gun show or they can go online, and they can buy that gun. We want to stop that from happening.

My friend from across the aisle also said that these laws don't work. Well, we know they work. I just gave you the numbers on how many felons and domestic abusers are stopped every day from purchasing a gun. But you can look at the studies that were done in two States.

One was in Connecticut. Connecticut passed a permit-to-purchase law in their State where you had to get the background check to purchase. What happened in that State after that law was passed? A 40 percent drop in homicide by firearms. Now, go down the road to Missouri, who repealed their requirement to permit-to-purchase and what happened? A 25 percent increase in homicides by firearms.

They work. These laws work, and we ought to make sure they apply to gun sales in all commercial settings.

My friend across the aisle in his Special Order said that you just have to look at States where there are tough laws regarding gun violence to see that they don't work. Well, it is really interesting because there are just 10 States that supply about half—49 percent—of the guns that cross State lines before being recovered in crimes.

□ 1715

Those States account for nearly 21,000 interstate crime guns recovered in 2009. So people go to the areas where it is easy for them to access firearms, they buy them, and then they bring them to the other States and they use them.

It is not enough just to have a tough law. My home State of California requires background checks for all gun purchases. It is not a big deal. I bought a gun over the last break. As you all know, my friends here know, I am a gun guy. I support the Second Amendment. I have firearms. I use them. I collect them. I hunt with them.

I bought one over the last break from a very close personal family friend, yet the law says we still had to get a background check. It wasn't any heavy lift. I took it to a dealer, they did the background check, and in 10 days I got my gun.

California is a stricter State than many. Nineteen States go beyond what the Federal Government requires. The Federal Government requires, remember, that you have to have a background check if you purchase a gun at a licensed dealer. California says all guns have to go through a background check. As I say, it is not a heavy lift.

But Californians can leave our State and they can go to another State, one of the 34 States that only have the Federal requirement—they can go to another State, they can go online, they can go to a newspaper ad, or they can go to a gun show—and they can purchase the same firearm that they would be prohibited from purchasing if they had to undergo a background check. We know it happens.

At the State of the Union, when we honored victims of gun violence, a man from Wisconsin was here because his sister took out a restraining order on her husband. Her husband tried to buy a gun, and that restraining order stopped him from being able to buy the gun. Well, he went home. He went online. He found someone that was selling the same gun, who wasn't a licensed dealer. He bought that gun. He took it to the beauty shop where his wife was, and he killed her, and he killed two other people.

Now, as Mr. CICILLINE said, we can't stop every act of gun violence by passing any bill. And the people that say they don't support the background check bill because it wouldn't have worked in Mr. CLYBURN's district in Charleston, or it wouldn't have worked in Mr. PERLMUTTER's district in the movie theater, or it wouldn't have worked in Orlando at the Pulse nightclub, they say, well, we only will support a bill that will work in all of these cases, well, the only bill that will do that is getting rid of all guns. There is not support on our side of the aisle for that, and there is not support on the other side of the aisle for that. It is a disingenuous argument.

Everything that we can do to stop people from being killed by someone with a gun we should be working on doing. The bills that we are talking about today are bipartisan bills. You know that, Mr. Speaker. Our bill has not only bipartisan support, it has 197 coauthors. I don't think there has ever been a time in the history of Congress that there has been a gun bill in this

House that has had 197 coauthors. That is really out of the ordinary.

Folks have lined up to support this because they know it is good public policy. The American people know it is good public policy. Ninety percent of the American population believe that we should expand background checks to include all commercial sales. Eighty-five percent believe that we should enact the no fly, no buy. They say if you are too dangerous to fly, you should be too dangerous to buy. They are bipartisan. Both of those measures are pro-Second Amendment. They are certainly commonsense, and they most certainly have the support of the majority of the American people.

We should be doing everything we can to pass those bills. We shouldn't be going home. And I know that sometimes a hyperbole takes over. I don't for a moment think that every Member in this body is going home to sit on the beach. I know what most Members do, if not all Members. We go home and we work in our districts. You are going to do that. I am going to do that. Mr. CLYBURN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CICILLINE, we are all going to go home, we are going to meet with our constituents, and we are going to do our work.

But the point that we are trying to make is we shouldn't leave this body, we shouldn't leave this House, the people's House, to go home to do our work there without first passing this gun violence prevention legislation that is bipartisan, supported by the American people, and pro-Second Amendment—measures that will do a little bit more to keep guns away from criminals, terrorists, and the dangerously mentally ill.

Mr. Speaker, we should be doing that. We should be doing that here today before we leave on this 7-week recess.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), the distinguished assistant leader.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, and I thank him so much for doing this Special Order.

I want to begin, first of all, by thanking my colleague on the other side of the Capitol, Senator TIM SCOTT, for a tremendous speech he gave on the floor of the Senate last evening. I thank him so much for sharing with the American people an issue that has, for some reason, converged with our overall discussions of gun violence.

Now, tonight, at around 7:30, we are going to have a national SpeakOut here on the west lawn of the Capitol. We will be speaking out on this whole issue of gun violence. I am particularly interested in one part of our effort dealing with background checks.

Now, some have said that background checks legislation that we are proposing would not have had any impact on most of these issues, if not all. Well, I beg to differ when it comes to Charleston and the Emanuel 9.

The facts are very clear that the gentleman who purchased the gun that he used to murder those nine souls doing their Bible study at Emanuel AME Church June 17 of last year was not eligible by law to have purchased a gun because of a 72-hour rule that we have in our background check laws. If you apply to purchase a gun and the background check is undertaken and it is not completed in 3 days, you can go back and get the gun, irrespective of whether or not you are eligible to have it.

Now, thanks to the Government Accountability Office, 2 days ago, they issued a study, and the study covered a period of 10 years, from 2006 to 2015. Here is what they have revealed. During that 10-year period, 89,000 requests to purchase a gun were denied because of domestic abuse; however, 6,700 were purchased by people who were ineligible because of that 3-day rule.

Now, over 90 percent of the people who apply to purchase a weapon have their background checks completed within 2 days, but there is that 10 percent that require additional scrutiny. We don't know whether or not people intentionally give the wrong information. If someone really wanted to curtail the law and knows what the law is, that person could very well give the wrong address, give the wrong middle initial, do something to cause the background check to be extended beyond the 3-day period.

The gentleman who purchased the gun in the case of the Emanuel 9, it was an interesting confluence of mistakes. It had nothing to do with the bureaucracy. For some strange reason, when he was arrested for his problem, rather than taking him to the Columbia jail, they took him to the West Columbia jail. So, when they looked for his record, they looked for the record in Columbia. But for some strange reason, the record was across the river in West Columbia. By the time they detected what the problem was, the 3 days had expired and he was able to purchase a gun.

Within days of that purchase, he went online and he studied the history of Emanuel AME Church, the church where Denmark Vesey organized an insurrection in 1822 in the basement of Emanuel Church. He looked at that history. He saw Emanuel AME Church as one of the most historical African American churches not just in the State of South Carolina, but in the country, and he targeted that church.

He went there, invited himself into the Bible study with these blessed souls, and sat with them for an hour. Then he got up, took out the gun that he had bought, which he was not eligible to purchase, and began to murder them systematically. One woman, Ms. Sanders, is here in Washington and will be here with us this evening, lost her son, her aunt, and a cousin. The reason she is still with us today is because she played dead under a table while covering up her little grandchildren. She

watched her son walk up to the shooter and say: Why are you doing this? We mean you no harm.

But he said: I have got to do it.

Why?

Because I want to start a race war.

Well, he did not start a race war. This whole country saw what forgiveness was all about. Within 48 hours, these family members, these survivors, were in a judicial courtroom. They looked at the perpetrator, and one after the other looked at him and said: I forgive you.

Well, I am appreciative of my constituents for forgiving, but I believe, as their representative here in this body, it is incumbent upon me to do whatever I can—and, hopefully, we will be joined by others in this body—to close this loophole. Let's make sure that gun purchases are not made until the background check is completed. If it takes 4 days or 5 days, what is that all about? What we must do is make sure that demented criminals and domestic abusers are not allowed to purchase guns because we know from history that they mean no good when they do.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his eloquent words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY).

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, first let me thank my good friend and colleague from the First District of Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) for leading tonight's Special Order hour on the Republicans' decision to leave for 52 days without taking any action to address the gun violence epidemic in this country.

□ 1730

Mr. Speaker, as I sat here this evening, listening to my colleague on the other side of the aisle repeatedly talking about this administration and how this administration's work had brought great harm to this America that we live in, well, Mr. Speaker, tonight, as I sit here and listen to my colleagues and to the great history lesson that we just received from Congressman CLYBURN in his reminding us of all the things that happened with the Charleston 9, I reflect on just the other day when four Black men went on national TV—not elected officials, not scholars in the world that we represent, but athletes who stood, dressed in black—who were there to honor another athlete, the great Muhammad Ali.

Those four young Black men, with young minds, decided that they would take their time on national TV—unrehearsed, unscripted by folks like you and me, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to share, just very briefly, what Carmelo Anthony said when he came to the podium.

"Tonight, we cannot ignore the reality of the current state of this America we live in. The events of the past week have put a spotlight on injustice and the distrust and anger that plagues so many of us."

Mr. Speaker, he said: "The system is broken. The problems are not new, and the racial divide is definitely not new, but the urgency to create change is at an all-time high."

Then Chris Paul followed him and said: "We stand here tonight, accepting our role in uniting communities to be the change we need to see."

Now, think about that—to go from distrust, Mr. Speaker, to trust and have this young athlete speak like we should be speaking, as Democrats and Republicans, in talking about change.

Do you know why they were saying this, Mr. Speaker?

It is because innocent lives are being taken because we don't have simple gun laws, because we can't close the loop. Certainly we should have the intellect to understand that if you can't fly, you can't buy.

When I listen to my colleagues say that we have not brought before this House laws that we can implement, that is not my responsibility as a Member of this Congress; it is our responsibility. It is not the Democrats' responsibility to do this. It is not the Black men's of the Congressional Black Caucus or the Hispanic men's of their caucus or the Democrats'. Mr. Speaker, we are better than this. It is our united responsibility.

When we stand here and make a joke of Black Lives Matter, let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, Black lives do matter—but blue lives matter, and all lives matter.

If that mother, like the mother that I am bringing from my Third Congressional District tonight, tells the story of her 13-year-old daughter who was sitting in her kitchen as her windows were riddled with gun bullets that killed that child, that matters to her.

Do you think the wife of that murdered police officer doesn't value that blue White life as much?

When these young folks come here tonight, many of them representing Black Lives Matter, they will come as these four athletes did on TV the other night. It is because they feel the pain, and they don't have an outlet, they don't have a place. They could march anywhere, but they are marching at the United States Capitol.

Do you know why?

They are coming here hoping for hope. They are coming here hoping for leadership. They are coming here hoping that we will unite one another and bring that trust.

Let me now tell you what the next speaker, Dwayne Wade said. "The racial profiling has to stop. The shoot-to-kill mentality has to stop. Not seeing the value of Black and Brown bodies has to stop."

Then let me tell you, as he ended with "enough is enough" and, "As athletes, we challenge you, America," then LeBron James, from my great State of Ohio, came to the microphone and said: "We all feel helpless and frustrated by the violence, but that is not acceptable. It's time to look in the

mirror and ask ourselves: What are we doing to create change?"

He knew that night that that was not what he was there to do, but he said it was his legacy that he wanted to talk about, and he wanted to use that moment in time for a call to action.

Mr. Speaker, I come with that same call to action tonight. I come to say to you that you should be better than what we are doing.

I am not pleased that it is empty on this side of the aisle. Mr. Speaker, I want America to know that I came here tonight willing to stand up and to talk to the thousands of folks who will come with that pain, with that anger. I want them to know that, as Democrats, we are here today because we know we can be so much better. We are not asking for a lot. We are asking for four simple bills. I won't walk you through them because you have heard them, Mr. Speaker. You have heard my colleagues repeatedly today through 1-minutes, through 5-minutes, through a Special Order hour, come and ask for help.

I don't know what more we can do tonight, but as you go home, I ask you to think about those lives that were taken, whether it was an innocent, young boy, a Trayvon Martin, a Tamir Rice, a Jordan Davis, or a Sandra Bland, whether it were those children at Newtown, whether it was someone in a theater or on a football field or in a restaurant, whether it was in Minnesota or in Baton Rouge or, yes, whether it was the Emanuel nine in South Carolina, or whether it were those innocent police officers in Dallas.

I will sleep well tonight, Mr. Speaker, and I want America to know that I will sleep well tonight because I came here to unite the communities, to unite Democrats and Republicans. I want America to know that I am talking to an empty audience of seats on the other side of the aisle because they went home.

I say to you: America deserves better. The innocent families who lost their loved ones deserve better. Yet, we are trapped here with the inactivity of Congress. We deserve to do more for our communities.

Mr. CICILLINE. I thank the gentlewoman for her eloquent words. I appreciate the passion she has brought to this not only tonight, but throughout the week and the last many weeks.

I am particularly proud, Mr. Speaker, of the leadership of our caucus. From the very first night when we came to the floor to attempt to break through the logjam of inaction by our Republican colleagues, it really galvanized our caucus. It galvanized the country that, likewise, is demanding action, demanding that we enact commonsense gun safety legislation.

We heard eloquent words from so many members of our caucus through those 26 hours; but so much leadership was provided by the leaders of our caucus, who, in the past several weeks, have used every occasion, every possible opportunity, to force a vote on

two commonsense gun safety provisions—to keep guns out of the hands of suspected terrorists and universal background checks—in amendments, in attempting to attach it to bills, in motions to recommit, in every way that they could.

I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), our distinguished Democratic whip, who has been a great champion on this issue and who has been a great leader in the fight for responsible gun safety legislation.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank him for taking this Special Order.

I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for that eloquent and passionate plea to put negligence aside, to put inaction aside, and to understand that in this House, we have an opportunity to take action.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to think of LeBron James' feeling helpless—one of the greatest athletes of our time and, perhaps, of all time. He is an extraordinarily powerful individual. For him to stand and say, I am frustrated and I feel helpless, in part, that is because he has sent people to Congress. He and 320 million Americans have sent people to Congress to respond and to keep them safe.

Can we keep them perfectly safe?

We cannot.

John Kennedy was speaking to a group of parents of children with disabilities. He stood before them and said: "Although these children have been the victims of fate, they shall not be the victims of our neglect."

Mr. Speaker, today, tomorrow, the week after, and for months to come, we do not know how many people will be victims of today's neglect; victims because we took a walk today rather than action on this floor of the people's House. We will never know the price that we will pay, but we surely know there will be a price.

Speaker RYAN, upon taking the Speaker's gavel, called for a return to regular order, openness, and transparency; and I would like to read his quote because it was a good quote.

He said: "We need to return to regular order."

Then he said: "We will not duck the tough issues."

Today we ducked. Today we said we are not going to apply our ability to take action. We are going to go home.

The American people, Mr. Speaker, ought to know that we weren't scheduled to go home until tomorrow night, and the American people ought to know that the President of the United States asked us, some 5 months ago, to apply resources so as to protect the public health from the Zika plague. So not only have we not dealt with gun violence, but we have not dealt with two simple but profound, commonsense actions.

Mr. Speaker, I could walk across to that rostrum where Republicans usually speak. I am at the rostrum where Democrats usually speak.

□ 1745

There ought to be a rostrum in the middle where we speak not as Republicans, not as Democrats, but as Americans, as parents, as husbands, as wives, as neighbors, as friends to protect and preserve not only the Constitution of the United States but their lives and their future.

Congresswoman BEATTY said it so well, "Black lives matter," and then she added quickly, "Blue lives matter." And of course she meant those who protect us and are sworn to put themselves at risk so that we may not be at risk. We lost five of them and we lost the young man in Minnesota and a not-quite-so-young man but another man in Louisiana just these past few days.

Mr. Speaker, you said, "We will not duck the tough issues." We don't think this is a tough issue, but maybe some people do. We think this is commonsense reason to pass a bill that says, if you are too dangerous to fly on an airplane in America, you are too dangerous for us to sell you a gun.

If we accept the premise that we ought to have background checks, which we do, then those ought to be not in just some cases but in every case so that we are not keeping people safe just in some instances but in every instance.

"We will not duck the tough issues." The Speaker then said, "We will take them head-on."

We have been asking now for years and certainly very directly for a number of weeks now to bring these bills to the floor that provide for universal background checks and for protecting people from people who are dangerous and who would buy guns but are too dangerous to fly on our airplanes.

That is all we are asking. We are not even asking that it pass. We will vote for it. We hope a large number of our colleagues will vote for it. Because I tell you, the American people are speaking from that middle mike, which does not exist. But their voice in the middle here is 90 percent of them saying, "Please, Congress, do these actions."

The Speaker went on to say, "We should not hide our disagreements." The American people don't have much of an agreement; it is nine to one.

"We should not hide our disagreements," he said. "We should embrace them. We have nothing to fear from honest disagreements honestly stated."

Bring them to the floor, Mr. Speaker.

Tonight, two friends of mine, Wendy Edmonds and Bobbe Frasier, will be with us tonight at 7:30. They lost Sylvia Frasier, their sister, at the United States Navy Yard, just a few blocks from where we stand, by someone who essentially invaded the Navy Yard and killed a significant number of people.

But the Congress has gone home. The leadership believes there is no more business left to do before going home to their districts for the next 7 weeks.

Tell that to the people of Flint, who 24 months after the lead was discovered

which gave such danger to their children and damaged their children—tell that to them. They have been waiting eagerly for Congress to take up legislation providing them with critical resources to recover from the lead poisoning in their water supply. They shall not be the victims of our neglect, but they are. We have gone home.

Tell that to millions of Americans in Puerto Rico and across this country who are at risk this summer of exposure to the Zika virus. Tell that to the millions of families who have been affected by gun violence and are looking to Congress to enact commonsense gun safety reforms.

So I tell my Republican colleagues, the Speaker, the majority leader, there is much work to be done right now. It is irresponsible that the majority would continue to obstruct and delay any action on these three pressing national crises. Instead, we should be remaining in Washington until they are addressed.

We saw the other night a bill pass from conference with no debate in just a few minutes—a major piece of legislation. Time is not the problem. Commitment is the problem.

Democrats, as Congresswoman BEATTY said so eloquently, are ready to stay here and do the hard work. And I am asking the Speaker and the majority leader to commit to doing the same.

The American people expect us to do our jobs, not just shrug and go home. We owe the American people that duty and that action. Let us vote.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure to yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the distinguished Democratic leader. I thank her again for her extraordinary leadership on this issue.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CICILLINE) has been such a leader on this issue. He was a leader in the sit-in that happened a few weeks ago on the floor of the House. I can attest personally. I bore witness to his staying here all night, for 25 hours straight.

He organized us on the steps of the Capitol on Tuesday evening, the 1-month anniversary—bad, sad observance of the 1 month since Orlando, where a hate crime was committed against young people gathered for a night of enjoyment, instead to have the end of their life occur. And why? Because of a hate crime. And why? Because we don't have commonsense gun laws in our country.

He also organized us all day in scores of 1-minutes on behalf of House Democrats. But I want to also thank him for putting this Special Order together in preparation for the event that we will have on the steps of the Capitol later this evening.

I associate myself with the remarks of our distinguished whip, Mr. HOYER, when we say to the Republicans, why have you left here? Congresswoman BEATTY has the same message. What

more important thing do our Republican colleagues have to do than to be in session, to do their job, for us all to do our job for the American people?

We should be here to do our job on Zika, which the President over 4 months ago requested funding to fight Zika, and now it is spreading in our country.

We should be here for funding for opioids. We passed a wonderful bill—good policy, but no funding; therefore, not effective.

We should be here to pass the funding for opioids and Flint, Michigan. What more important thing do you have to do, my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle, than to meet the needs of the children of Flint, Michigan?

Here we are, continuing to have our conversation about commonsense gun violence protection.

I want to quote from President Lyndon Johnson. In the aftermath of the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy, just weeks after the fatal shooting of Martin Luther King, Jr., and only a few years after President John F. Kennedy was shot, President Johnson pressed Congress to enact gun control legislation that he sent to Capitol Hill years earlier. He had sent it after the Kennedy assassination.

LBJ ordered all of his staff and urged allies in Congress to act swiftly. Here is what he said that was as relevant now as it was then. President Lyndon Johnson, following the deaths of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy, said: “We only have 2 weeks, maybe only 10 days, before the gun lobby gets organized. We’ve got to beat the NRA into the offices of Members of Congress.”

Decades. This has been going on for decades. When a President of the United States, after the assassination of a President; an icon, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.; Senator Robert Kennedy—well, actually he was a candidate for President at the time, Senator Kennedy was. “We’ve got to beat the NRA into the offices of Members of Congress.” Well, obviously, we haven’t, because they sort of live there. They sort of live there.

And when he signed the watered-down version of the bill he proposed, he said, “The voices that blocked these safeguards were not the voices of an aroused nation. They were the voices of a powerful gun lobby, a gun lobby that has prevailed for the moment in an election year.” Sound familiar?

LBJ went on to say, “We have been through a great deal of anguish these last few months and these last few years—too much anguish to forget so quickly. So now we must complete the task which this long-needed legislation begins.”

Here we are decades later, still recognizing the fact that the National Rifle Association, the gun lobby, has so much power over Members of Congress. It has so much power over their political survival, some of our colleagues think.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker: What is more important, the political survival of Members of Congress beholden to the gun lobby or the survival of little kindergarten students in Newtown, Connecticut? What is more important, the political survival of Members of Congress or the personal survival of members gathered in church in South Carolina, or young people gathered for an evening of fun in Orlando—the list goes on and on—or our dear police officers killed in Dallas.

What is it? How do you explain it to people, except to say there is a large element of cowardice. There is a large element of putting people’s own political survival over the oath of office that we take to protect the American people.

Excuse me. This is so emotional.

I salute my colleague Congresswoman BEATTY for her very passionate and intellectual statement that she made in recognizing the role of athletes. I am very proud of the Golden State Warriors. They have long been involved in this, as has the NBA and the players that she mentioned. This was another venue for them to speak out. They have been eloquent on the subject for a while.

I salute my colleague Mr. CICILLINE, not only for his work on gun issues, but on hate crimes as well, because that was a hate crime in Orlando.

Mr. CLYBURN is going to be outside on the steps of the Capitol with a large crowd of people so we can listen to the stories of those affected. If only our colleagues would open their hearts and their minds and not have a tin ear to the voices of the families, listen to the families.

One of our own colleagues, Congressman BOBBY RUSH of Illinois, he and his family are survivors of the death of their son. When he tells the story of how he learned of his son being shot but then of his son passing, it is so eloquent and so compelling. And he talks about the shriek, the cry, the scream of a mother who has just found out that her child is dead from a gunshot.

How much of this can we take? It is always impressive, I have to say, to witness the degree of tolerance that our colleagues have for the pain of others. How much pain do people have to suffer for people to hear, to learn, to judge?

Was it George Bernard Shaw who said the sign of a truly intelligent person is that he is informed by statistics? The statistics are overwhelming: 91 a day; over 1,000 mass murders, which is defined as 4 or more people being slaughtered in 1 incident—all of that since Newtown.

□ 1800

I know my time is drawing short, but I will just say this: these are statistics. More important than that, they are human lives.

How many more human lives? How many shrieks of mothers learning—and dads as well.

He spoke of hearing his wife’s shriek; the piercing sound of a mother’s scream.

I heard one of the mothers from Orlando when she was suspicious that her son might have been killed. She said: I don’t know. We don’t have any evidence, but nobody has seen him. He isn’t at the hospital. I am afraid I have become a member of the club, the club of women, moms who have lost their children. It is a terrible club to be a member of, and I want to speak out against gun violence so that there aren’t more moms added to the club.

But that doesn’t seem to resonate with our colleagues. They don’t even give the courtesy of attendance to hear the concerns that people have.

Is it indifference? Do they not know or do they not care? Or is it some combination?

Whatever it is, it is a disgrace to our oath of office to protect the American people.

Be assured of this, be assured of this: we are not going away. You will see us. You will see the faces of those moms, all the organizations that have come together, the millions of people, the high percentages, 85, 90 percent of the American people of all parties and no parties who support the legislation that we are asking for. We are not going away until we have commonsense gun violence prevention laws passed in our country to save lives, to save lives. That is the challenge we offer to our Republican colleagues.

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

REQUEST TO BE GRANTED ADDITIONAL SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that we have an additional hour to continue to speak about the urgency of gun violence prevention action. We have many Democratic colleagues who are here who are seeking time to implore the Speaker to come back.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair cannot entertain that request.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. CICILLINE. Point of parliamentary inquiry.

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, why is the Chair not capable of entertaining a request for unanimous consent to provide for additional time to address this urgent public health crisis?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Speaker’s announced policy on Special Order Speeches does not allow the Chair to entertain that request.

GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS) for 30 minutes.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I take the floor this afternoon to continue to talk about gun violence and to talk about the problems that we are encountering in this country at this time with the issues of citizens being killed, police officers being killed, domestic violence, to talk about people who may be mentally ill who are committing gun violence.

This is a very difficult subject. You have heard from my colleagues for some days now about our determination to deal with this issue of gun violence. You have heard about the bills that we have tried to get taken up on the floor to deal with gun violence. Very simple bills. One bill that is a bill that has been characterized as no fly, no buy, simply meaning that if you are too dangerous to be on an airplane, you are too dangerous to be able to buy a gun. And, of course, universal background checks to make sure we know who is seeking to purchase weapons and what their backgrounds are and whether or not they should be allowed to purchase a gun.

In the middle of all of this work that we are doing, we are painfully reminded that there is another issue and another problem that we have been confronted with year in and year out that really has not been dealt with, and this problem is one that has reared its head one more time.

Just a few days ago we witnessed the killings of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge and Philando Castile in Minnesota. And, of course, because of the graphic pictures that were shown on television, because of the cell phones that recorded what was going on, it has really created the kind of discussion and organizing and rallying and protesting that forces us to have to deal with this issue even when it is too painful for many to deal with.

I would like to say that I have been dealing with this issue for many, many years. It started when I was in the California State legislature back in 1994. There was a woman named Eula Love, who was shot down on her porch in front of her daughters. Because she had not been able to pay her utility bill, her gas bill, her heating bill, and because she would not allow the gas company to turn off her heat, they called the police, and the police came out. A confrontation ensued. I think she had a butter knife that she waved at them, and they shot Eula Love down on her porch.

I became very active back then in dealing with police shootings because, as you know, in the Los Angeles area there had been incidents prior to this, dating back before this that had created the kind of protests and rallies that really caused people to fear what was happening in our communities. So I organized. I visited the police commission. I organized others to visit the police commission. We tried to set up meetings with the police chief at the time, who was Daryl Gates.

Daryl Gates was a tough chief of police, and he had no intentions of sitting

down with the community to talk about police shootings. He felt that every police shooting was justified and that the community had no right to question what happened when there was a confrontation between police and the community.

We organized. We continued to put pressure on Daryl Gates. More incidents occurred. As a matter of fact, when you heard about the death of Eric Gardner up in New York, who died from something called the choke hold, it really was a practice that was used in the Los Angeles area by police officers. At that time, Daryl Gates, the police chief, said that the Black people who were killed as a result of the choke hold died because something was wrong with their carotid muscle; that it was something abnormal about Black people that caused them to die when they were placed in this kind of choke hold.

And so having worked in the greater Los Angeles area and witnessed Police Chief Daryl Gates learning and understanding the choke hold, and even there was something called the battering ram and on and on and on, I have known for many years that this was an issue that had to be dealt with, and from time to time others have tried.

There have been meetings in various cities and towns in this country at police commissions. Many people have tried to create civilian police review boards. It has been resisted in many cities and towns. Very few have been able to create citizen police review boards.

So these killings continue. And they are disproportionately killings of Black men and boys. So when people raise the question about why so many Black folks are involved in this issue, it is because of the disproportionate number of African Americans who find themselves killed, and their families find their relatives killed at the hands of police.

Now, of course, not all police are out looking to kill someone. Not all police are prejudiced. Not all police are bad officers. But, of course, we know there are problems. We have pointed to the training, and we have asked for better training. We have always felt that the buck stops at the top and that if police chiefs have the kind of training that we believe officers should have, we could reduce the numbers of confrontations and killings of young Black men in particular.

I don't know what has become of this training idea. I think most police chiefs will tell you: Oh, we do the proper training. We have the best training of any police department in the country.

But somehow people who are the victims of police officers who are responsible for these killings really don't believe that the training is what it should be.

These killings are creating the kind of protests and rallies that are making

a lot of people extremely uncomfortable. We are all very saddened by the fact that we lost five police officers in Dallas and that the killer of the police officers said he killed them because he was seeking revenge. We do not want the revenge mentality to take hold in this country. That is very dangerous.

What do we do about it?

What we do about it is keep working at how we can reduce these killings, how we can eliminate these killings.

What can we do?

I have some ideas about this that I am working with some people on. As a matter of fact, I will be speaking to the National Black Lawyers Association on Monday in St. Louis, Missouri, and I am going to talk with them about several ideas.

One of the ideas I want to talk with them about is encouraging more communities to meet on an ongoing and regular basis with police chiefs. Get to know them, talk with them, explain what has been said about them and the feelings of African Americans in these communities. Get to know each other.

I am going to ask them to work with the members of the city councils who have the budgets of the police departments and with the county supervisors who have the budgets of the sheriff's departments. Talk with them and leverage your influence because you have the budget in your control to let them know how serious you are about reducing these killings and these confrontations.

The other issue that I am going to talk with the lawyers about is putting together a program to take to our police chiefs about reducing the confrontations by eliminating stopping these automobiles and these drivers on minor incidents, minor problems.

Of course, there are going to be some taillights that need to be fixed, but do you need to stop that motorist? Do you need to ask them to get out of the car? Do you need to ask them to get out of the car with their hands up? Do you ask them to get out of the car and lean over the back of the car, legs spread, arms spread? Do you need to ask them to get out of the car and tell them to lay on the ground while you search them? Do you need to search the car illegally? What are you looking for?

□ 1815

If, in fact, it is just a tail light, can't you just give a warning? Can't you just give a ticket and go on about your business? Why is it that these police stops about tail lights and other infractions are causing so much confrontation?

Of course, as most drivers try to do the best they can in driving and taking care of their cars, I am sure there are those who would like to get some things fixed, whether it is a windshield wiper or a tail light or something else that may be wrong with the car, but I am sure some may have to wait until the next payday. They may not have enough money to do that. They are not

crooks and they are not criminals, and they should be warned.

There is something in the Black community that Blacks have believed for a long time. When kids are coming up, they tend to get in trouble. Sometimes they vandalize; sometimes they perhaps ring somebody's doorbell and run, as someone was explaining the other night that was happening with their child; or sometimes they will pull a prank and run away, and then they get caught.

In the African American community, we believe that oftentimes when children commit these kinds of minor offenses and the police stop them, they take them home to momma or they tell them to get out of there and go home, but when Black kids are stopped, the Black community believes our kids are taken to jail.

We have got to straighten out some of the misunderstandings about what happens when Black boys, in particular, and Black men are stopped on these infractions. We believe that a lot of confrontations do not have to take place if, in fact, these minor offenses are not treated like crimes.

We believe that we can reduce the occurrence of these confrontations by convincing the police departments that they should not be asking folks to get out of their cars and creating a confrontation.

People should not be calling each other names. We want to eliminate from the mouths of any police officers the N-word or the kind of language that is oftentimes used when they decide that they are going to stop someone and that they are going to raise questions or they are going to search them, et cetera. We believe that that is a legitimate thing to do.

So I am going to be recommending to the National Black Lawyers Association that we put together a program that we present to these police chiefs and these police departments about reducing confrontation and discontinuing the stops on minor offenses that end up in confrontations and killings.

The other thing that I am going to be recommending not only to the National Black Lawyers Association but to the news media and to these channels who cover all of this, why can't we have some public service announcements that go on every day and maybe at the end of every day where people are reminded about safe driving and taking care of their cars, getting those windshield wipers fixed, getting those tail lights fixed, making sure that the windows are working.

Why can't we have public service announcements that just keep reminding people to have your insurance documentation in the car with you—all of those things that could reduce the kind of stops that we are witnessing time and time again that are ending in confrontation. I believe that there are many other things that we can do if we think about it.

I know there is a lot going on about having discussions. People say that we

should talk to each other more. Well, that is fine and that is good, and for all of those people who would like to be involved in discussions with each other in their communities or with the police department, you should do that.

But talk is cheap, and it really is going to take some concerted actions to be able to deal with this problem.

There are some police officers who should just be weeded out. They have no business being police officers. They are either trigger-happy or they are prejudiced. And when they see a young Black man, six-foot-two, six-foot-three, weighing 200 pounds, they are automatically afraid of them, and they think that they have to protect themselves against them simply because of the size of the individual.

When we take a look at Eric Gardner up in New York, who was of such size, where he was wrestled to the ground simply because he was selling loose cigarettes, that was all about, we believe, some officer proving that they were not afraid of him and they could take him to the ground and they could deal with him. Of course, it is what triggered his death. There was no need to tackle him.

I just saw on television the other day a famous, I believe, tennis player who was standing in New York and was rushed by police because they said he fit the description of someone who had been reported who had committed a crime.

Now, when you say that you stopped a young Black man because they fit the description, nobody believes that. We have heard that over and over and over again. And Blacks believe that that is an excuse to stop somebody, and it is a convenient excuse to say, "Well, we stopped him because he fit the description."

They don't have any other reason to stop. They have not violated anything, they don't have traffic warrants, et cetera, et cetera. But this excuse has been used over and over again: He fit the description, and that is why we stopped.

When people are the victims of those who say they fit the description, of course they are angry. Of course they are going to tell the police officer that they didn't fit the description and they don't like this happening. And that causes another kind of confrontation.

So we need to be able to talk with the police chiefs and tell them these kinds of things.

And we need to get rid of that culture of silence in the police department. One officer can witness another officer actually committing a crime, he could see that police officer targeting and treating somebody bad, but they will never, ever admit it. They will never, ever report it. That culture of silence and protection is something that we all know about, and it happens every day.

So we need to be honest about what the feelings are, and the police need to be honest with us about what they

think about what they are doing in these kinds of situations.

Even in all that I have heard on television in the last few days, where they supposedly are having townhall meetings, supposedly talking about these issues, I have not heard the real truth come out about how members of the African American community who have witnessed too much of this really feel about the police, and I have not heard the police talk about how they really feel about those that they think are committing crimes or should be stopped or what they understand about them and what is going on in the community.

So I am hopeful that we can have a real conversation. Because I want to tell you, as we take a look at what has happened just in the last year or so, what we find is 1,205 people have been shot and killed by on-duty police officers since January 1, 2015. In the first 6 months of 2016, 465 people were shot and killed. In 2016, 491 were shot and killed. In 2016, there was a 6-percent increase in the number of such deaths during the first 6 months of the year.

Fatal encounters are strikingly similar to last year's shootings, where Blacks continue to be shot at 2.5 times the rate of Whites. Police have shot and killed a young Black man ages 18–29, such as Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, 175 times since January 2015, and 24 of them were known to be unarmed.

So whether we are talking about Michael Brown, Eric Gardner, Ezell Ford, Tamir Rice, John Crawford, Kimani Gray, Walter Scott, Freddie Gray, Sandra Bland, Rekia Boyd, Laquan McDonald, or the last two that we have seen on television almost every night for the last week or so, Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, and names that we don't know—those names are not mentioned here because they have not been reported and we don't have the kind of database for these killings that we should have.

That is another recommendation that I am making, that we must have a database that is kept so that we can know for sure exactly who is being killed and why, supposedly, they are being killed.

This is tough business that we have to deal with. This is painful business that we have to deal with. But when you see those mothers on television, as I saw last evening, saying: I have a 14-year-old, and I am afraid for his life every minute he is not with me. And folks tell us that you should talk to them more and you should tell them how they should act when they are stopped by the police.

I want to tell you, every African American mother and father that I know talk to their children about the police. They are afraid that they are going to be killed. They are afraid that they are not going to come home once they leave the house. They talk to them about how to conduct themselves if they are stopped by the police. While

they shouldn't have to act any differently than anybody else, mothers and fathers of Black children talk to their children about that all the time.

They say to them: If they stop you, make sure you keep your hands visible. Put them up on the dashboard so they won't think you are reaching for something. If they ask you to get your driver's license out, you tell them to take it out of your pocket because you are afraid that if you go in your pocket to get your driver's license there will be an excuse to shoot you down. Too many of them have said and will say, "We thought they were reaching for a weapon."

Black people, for the most part, tell their young boys and their young men not only to keep their hands visible, but don't talk back to the police, make sure you don't look as if you are reaching for something, and be very, very careful that you don't do anything that will cause them to shoot you.

Now, this is real. This goes on all the time. I don't know if people know or understand this.

None of us are saying that we want our children to be in confrontation, that we want our men to be in confrontation, that we want our girls to be in confrontation with the police. We always teach everything that we can about staying out of a situation where there will be an excuse to kill or shoot you.

Body cameras. We have advocated for body cameras. And now we find that, in this last incident, I believe, in Minnesota, the body camera somehow was on the ground and it wasn't working; or the body camera was not turned on, in some instances that we hear about; or even when the body camera records, in many instances, and maybe under practices and law in some cities, that information cannot be revealed for some long period of time until after certain things have taken place within the police department.

So we have talked about that and we have advocated for body cameras. We were hoping that they would help us to understand what was going on. But we find that just plain old citizens with a cell phone are doing more to document what is happening than the body cameras that we advocated for. As a matter of fact, but for cell phones, we would not have known what happened in Baton Rouge and we would not have known what happened in Minnesota.

The sight of a man being pinned down on the ground, unable to move, a gun being put at very close range to his body and being killed is more than most folks can bear.

□ 1830

Most folks looking at what happened in Baton Rouge and what happened in Minnesota know that something is wrong with that; that that is not right. It is not just Black folks. There are many White folks who understand and believe it is something wrong with this picture.

So while we are talking about gun violence, and we would love to be able to focus on laws that we could create to keep the guns out of the hands of people who shouldn't have them, we have got to deal with also what is happening in our country with the confrontations between African American men and boys in particular, and girls, and police officers.

So I share this information with you, as difficult as it is to talk about it, because until we get to the point of honesty about what we feel and what we understand and what we believe is going on, we are never going to be able to deal with this problem. I am going to continue to work on this.

Like I said, I started in 1994. And while my attention and my career has been diverted to deal with financial services and other kinds of issues on Wall Street, I have got to get back to Main Street, and I have got to get back to the idea that we can do better than this, and that our country cannot continue to not know how to deal with it, but, rather, come up with creative ideas and thoughts and ways by which we can discontinue these killings.

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

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1555. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II; to the Committee on Financial Services; in addition, to the Committee on House Administration for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

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

H.R. 636. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4875. An act to establish the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5588. An act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2016, the rates compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 524. An act to authorize the Attorney General and Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to address the prescription opioid abuse and heroin use crisis, and for other purposes.

S. 2840. An act to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds for active shooter training, and for other purposes.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on July 14, 2016, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 636. To amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4875. To establish the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5588. To increase, effective as of December 1, 2016, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, July 18, 2016, at 2:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6073. A letter from the Secretary, U.S. Air Force, Department of Defense, transmitting a Program Acquisition Unit Cost breach for the Next Generation Operational Control System, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433(d)(3); Public Law 97-252, Sec. 1107(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 110-417, Sec. 811(c)); (122 Stat. 4522); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6074. A letter from the Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's Semi-Annual Report to Congress, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 5496(b), Public Law 111-203, Sec. 1016 (124 Stat. 1974); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6075. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Grants to Tribal Colleges and Universities and Diné College [167A2100DD/AAKC001030/A0A501010.999900 253G] (RIN: 1076-AF08) received July 11, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6076. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, transmitting the Department's final rule — World Trade Center

Health Program; Addition of New-Onset Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and WTC-Related Acute Traumatic Injury to the List of WTC-Related Health Conditions [Docket No.: CDC-2015-0063, NIOSH-287] (RIN: 0920-AA61) received July 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6077. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances; Technical Correction [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2015-0810; FRL-9947-33] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6078. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval and Air Quality Designation; TN; Redesignation of the Sullivan County Lead Nonattainment Area to Attainment [EPA-R04-OAR-2012-0323; FRL-9948-68-Region 4] received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6079. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Standards of Performance for Stationary Compression Ignition Internal Combustion Engines [EPA-HQ-OAR-2014-0866; FRL-9948-65-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS43) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6080. A letter from the Chief, Policy and Rules Division, Office of Engineering and Technology, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Parts 0, 1, 2, and 15 of the Commission's Rules regarding Authorization of Radiofrequency Equipment [ET Docket No.: 13-44] (RM-11652) Amendment of Part 68 regarding Approval of Terminal Equipment by Telecommunications Certification Bodies received July 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6081. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 16-045, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(A); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 104-164, Sec. 141(c)); (110 Stat. 1431); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6082. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-137, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(C); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 94-329, Sec. 211(a)); (82 Stat. 1326); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6083. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 16-007, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(C); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 94-329, Sec. 211(a)); (82 Stat. 1326); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6084. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 16-040, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(A); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 104-164, Sec. 141(c)); (110 Stat. 1431); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6085. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State,

transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 16-021, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(A); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 104-164, Sec. 141(c)); (110 Stat. 1431); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6086. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 16-013, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(A); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 104-164, Sec. 141(c)); (110 Stat. 1431); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6087. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a notification of a deployment of U.S. Armed Forces personnel to South Sudan, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 975(b)(2); Public Law 95-485, Sec. 815(a); (92 Stat. 1625) (H. Doc. No. 114—148); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

6088. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, transmitting the quarterly report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period April 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016 (H. Doc. No. 114—149); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

6089. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31079; Amdt. No.: 3698] received July 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6090. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31081; Amdt. No.: 3700] received July 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6091. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31078; Amdt. No. 3697] received July 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6092. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Flight Simulation Training Device Qualification Standards for Extended Envelope and Adverse Weather Event Training Tasks [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0391; Amdt. No.: 60-4] (RIN: 2120-AK08) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6093. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; M7 Aerospace LLC Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-4256; Directorate Identifier 2016-CE-002-AD; Amendment 39-18512; AD 2016-10-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6094. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of

Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-2462; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-224-AD; Amendment 39-18515; AD 2016-10-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6095. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0247; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-178-AD; Amendment 39-18513; AD 2016-10-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6096. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-3141; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-242-AD; Amendment 39-18516; AD 2016-10-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6097. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-7528; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-004-AD; Amendment 39-18524; AD 2016-10-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6098. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0006; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-147-AD; Amendment 39-18519; AD 2016-10-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6099. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-3634; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-203-AD; Amendment 39-18521; AD 2016-10-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6100. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-6548; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-114-AD; Amendment 39-18520; AD 2016-10-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6101. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-4815; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-112-AD; Amendment 39-18522; AD 2016-10-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to

5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6102. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Saab AB, Saab Aeronautics (Formerly Known as Saab AB, Saab Aerosystems) [Docket No.: FAA-2015-7524; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-231-AD; Amendment 39-18554; AD 2016-12-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6103. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31084; Amdt. No.: 527] received July 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6104. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-3988; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-130-AD; Amendment 39-18546; AD 2016-11-19] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6105. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace for the following Oklahoma towns; Antlers, OK; Oklahoma City, OK; Oklahoma City Wiley Post Airport, OK; and Shawnee, OK [Docket No.: FAA-2015-7857; Airspace Docket No.: 15-ASW-22] received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6106. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-8467; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-107-AD; Amendment 39-18541; AD 2016-11-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6107. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Clovis, NM [Docket No.: FAA-2016-0449; Airspace Docket No.: 16-ASW-2] received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6108. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0027; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-127-AD; Amendment 39-18543; AD 2016-11-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6109. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes [Docket

et No.: FAA-2015-8430; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-093-AD; Amendment 39-18523; AD 2016-10-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6110. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca S.A. Turboshift Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2015-8257; Directorate Identifier 2015-NE-36-AD; Amendment 39-18555; AD 2016-12-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6111. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Viking Air Limited Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-6628; Directorate Identifier 2016-CE-013-AD; Amendment 39-18514; AD 2016-10-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6112. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-7263; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-072-AD; Amendment 39-18564; AD 2016-12-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6113. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Defense and Space S.A. (Formerly Known as Construcciones Aeronauticas, S.A.) [Docket No.: FAA-2015-8465; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-239-AD; Amendment 39-18535; AD 2016-11-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6114. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca S.A. Turboshift Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0219; Directorate Identifier 2010-NE-14-AD; Amendment 39-18556; AD 2016-12-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6115. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (formerly Eurocopter France) [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0105; Directorate Identifier 2008-SW-58-AD; Amendment 39-18562; AD 2016-12-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6116. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-5812; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-077-AD; Amendment 39-18531; AD 2016-11-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public

Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6117. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-7265; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-084-AD; Amendment 39-18565; AD 2016-13-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6118. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-1273; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-194-AD; Amendment 39-18530; AD 2016-11-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6119. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0496; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-101-AD; Amendment 39-18533; AD 2016-11-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6120. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-7266; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-085-AD; Amendment 39-18566; AD 2016-13-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6121. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; BLANK LIMITED Gliders [Docket No.: FAA-2016-4231; Directorate Identifier 2015-CE-042-AD; Amendment 39-18537; AD 2016-11-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6122. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-6542; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-038-AD; Amendment 39-18563; AD 2016-12-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6123. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-4812; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-034-AD; Amendment 39-18560; AD 2016-12-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6124. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of

Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (Previously Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH) (Airbus Helicopters) [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0903; Directorate Identifier 2013-SW-043-AD; Amendment 39-18548; AD 2016-11-21] received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6125. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0246; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-187-AD; Amendment 39-18511; AD 2016-09-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6126. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-8426; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-006-AD; Amendment 39-18527; AD 2016-10-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6127. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-2457; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-209-AD; Amendment 39-18525; AD 2016-10-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6128. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-7528; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-004-AD; Amendment 39-18524; AD 2016-10-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6129. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Piper Aircraft, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0338; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-010-AD; Amendment 39-18495; AD 2016-08-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6130. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca S.A. Turboshaft Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2016-2859; Directorate Identifier 2016-NE-04-AD; Amendment 39-18536; AD 2016-11-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6131. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-8427; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-212-

AD; Amendment 39-18508; AD 2016-09-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6132. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate Previously Held by Eurocopter France) [Docket No.: FAA-2015-3741; Directorate Identifier 2014-SW-040-AD; Amendment 39-18507; AD 2016-09-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6133. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-6149; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-047-AD; Amendment 39-18510; AD 2016-09-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6134. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-4808; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-134-AD; Amendment 39-18509; AD 2016-09-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6135. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2015-6033; Directorate Identifier 2015-SW-019-AD; Amendment 39-18571; AD 2016-13-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6136. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Shelton, WA [Docket No.: FAA-2015-3994; Airspace Doc. No.: 15-ANM-23] received July 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6137. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-4210; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-067-AD; Amendment 39-18567; AD 2016-13-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6138. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Saab AB, Saab Aeronautics (Type Certificate Previously Held by Saab AB, Saab Aerosystems) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-8432; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-100-AD; Amendment 39-18570; AD 2016-13-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6139. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of

Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0250; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-216-AD; Amendment 39-18505; AD 2016-09-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6140. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare Program: Expanding Uses of Medicare Data by Qualified Entities [CMS-5061-F] (RIN: 0938-AS66) received July 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. DENT: Committee on Ethics. In the Matter of Allegations Related to Representative Ed Whitfield (Rept. 114-687). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4202. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Fort Ontario in the State of New York (Rept. 114-688). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4510. A bill to insure adequate use and access to the existing Bolts Ditch headgate and ditch segment within the Holy Cross Wilderness in Eagle County, Colorado, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-689). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4789. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a structure for visitor services on the Arlington Ridge tract, in the area of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-690). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 5199. A bill to amend title 41, United States Code, to improve the manner in which Federal contracts for construction and design services are awarded, and to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for design and construction services procurements; with an amendment (Rept. 114-691). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 24. A bill to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 114-692). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

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. BRADY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5779. A bill to require States to automatically register eligible voters to vote in

elections for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, 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. BISHOP of Utah (for himself and Mr. CHAFFETZ):

H.R. 5780. A bill to provide greater conservation, recreation, economic development and local management of Federal lands in Utah, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah (for himself and Mr. CHAFFETZ):

H.R. 5781. A bill to complement the Utah Public Lands Initiative by ensuring land use certainty in seven counties in Utah; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 5782. A bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to reauthorize and improve the Brownfields revitalization program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama (for herself, Mr. CICILLINE, and Ms. BROWN of Florida):

H.R. 5783. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish tax-preferred Small Business Start-up Savings Accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 5784. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to simplify the FAFSA requirements for dependent students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. RUSSELL:

H.R. 5785. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for an annuity supplement for certain air traffic controllers; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. WALDEN, and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 5786. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for a rail spill preparedness fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. GRAHAM (for herself and Mr. BOST):

H.R. 5787. A bill to provide for grants from the Attorney General to local education agencies to purchase and install devices that would allow for the immediate notification of appropriate officials in case of emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 5788. A bill to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to provide for the management and disposal of coal combustion residuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BARR (for himself and Ms. FUDGE):

H.R. 5789. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the site of the Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park in Jessamine County, Kentucky, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ (for himself, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. BLUM, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, and Mr. CUMMINGS):

H.R. 5790. A bill to provide adequate protections for whistleblowers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 5791. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to report revenue generated by each sports team, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HURD of Texas (for himself, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. KILMER, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. CULBERSON, and Mr. YODER):

H.R. 5792. A bill to promote innovation and realize the efficiency gains and economic benefits of on-demand computing by accelerating the acquisition and deployment of innovative technology and computing resources throughout the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on 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. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5793. A bill to require the chief election officials of the States to provide voter registration forms at certain naturalization proceedings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. LIPINSKI (for himself, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. DENT):

H.R. 5794. A bill to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Homeland Security relating to public transportation security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself and Mr. VEASEY):

H.R. 5795. A bill to establish scientific standards and protocols across forensic disciplines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 5796. A bill to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to prohibit a court from making an award of costs to a defendant except on a finding that an action was brought in bad faith; to the Committee on Financial Services, 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. FARR (for himself and Mr. TED LIEU of California):

H.R. 5797. A bill to protect certain seamounts, ridges, and banks in the Exclusive Economic Zone off the coast of California by the establishment of the California Seamounts and Ridges National Marine Conservation Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. RUSH, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr.

GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. DOLD, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. HULTGREN, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. BOST):

H.R. 5798. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Davis Street in Evanston, Illinois, as the "Abner J. Mikva Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. JENKINS of Kansas (for herself, Mr. KIND, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 5799. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for payments for certain rural health clinic and Federally qualified health center services furnished to hospice patients under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. POLIQUIN (for himself and Mr. ROE of Tennessee):

H.R. 5800. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide criminal penalties for certain officials who mishandle classified information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. POLIS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. HUNTER, and Mrs. DAVIS of California):

H.R. 5801. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the definition of "exempt H-1B nonimmigrant"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HIMES, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. ESTY):

H.R. 5802. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for the issuance of Green Bonds and to establish the United States Green Bank, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. HARDY:

H.R. 5803. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a temporary election to accelerate the American Opportunity Tax Credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CULBERSON (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 5804. A bill to amend section 412(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement to obtain the approval of the Governor of a State before placing or resettling a refugee with the State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MESSER (for himself, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. NEAL):

H.R. 5805. A bill to increase portability of and access to retirement savings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RIBBLE:

H.R. 5806. A bill to prohibit congressional recesses until Congress adopts a concurrent resolution on the budget that results in a balanced Federal budget by fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently

determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DUFFY (for himself, Mr. WILLIAMS, and Mr. MEEKS):

H.R. 5807. A bill to amend the Bank Service Company Act to permit the appropriate Federal banking agencies to coordinate examinations of bank service companies with State banking agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DUFFY (for himself, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. HURT of Virginia):

H.R. 5808. A bill to amend the Economic Growth and Regulatory Paperwork Reduction Act of 1996 to ensure that Federal financial regulators perform a comprehensive review of regulations to identify outdated or otherwise unnecessary regulatory requirements imposed on covered persons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. WILLIAMS, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 5809. A bill to protect law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself and Ms. BASS):

H.R. 5810. A bill to establish a national, evidence-based, and comprehensive home study assessment standard for the evaluation of prospective foster parents and adoptive parents and provide funding to States to adopt this standard; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 5811. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assist sanitation and safety conditions at Bureau of Indian Affairs facilities that were constructed to provide treaty tribes access to traditional fishing grounds and expend funds on construction of facilities and structures to improve those conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. OLSON (for himself and Mr. GROTHMAN):

H.R. 5812. A bill to repeal executive overreach, to clarify that the proper constitutional authority for social transformation belongs to the legislative branch; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHRADER (for himself, Mr. COOPER, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. CUELLAR, and Ms. GRAHAM):

H.R. 5813. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to revise rules relating to changes to the exemptions from overtime pay requirements for certain employees to provide a gradual schedule for such changes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. COFFMAN, and Ms. SINEMA):

H.R. 5814. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve service-connected disability determinations for purposes of loan discharge; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. WALDEN (for himself, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 5815. A bill to bar prosecution under section 844(f)(1) of title 18, United States Code, in certain cases; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BABIN (for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mrs. BLACK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. BRAT, Mr.

BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. HARPER, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MEADOWS, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. OLSON, Mr. PERRY, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. POSEY, Mr. ROSS, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. WALKER, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. MARCHANT, and Mr. SANFORD):

H.R. 5816. A bill to suspend, and subsequently terminate, the admission of certain refugees, to examine the impact on the national security of the United States of admitting refugees, to examine the costs of providing benefits to such individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. LOBONDO, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 5817. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit oil-, gas-, and methane hydrate-related seismic activities in the North Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and Straits of Florida planning areas of the outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BLUM (for himself, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. BISHOP of Michigan):

H.R. 5818. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for expensing of property used to comply with Federal laws and regulations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Mr. CICILLINE):

H.R. 5819. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to allow all eligible voters to vote by mail in Federal elections, to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide for automatic voter registration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BORDALLO:

H.R. 5820. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and implement a fully automated electronic system for travel authorization for the Guam and Northern Mariana Islands visa waiver program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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. BORDALLO:

H.R. 5821. A bill to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 5822. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop uniform policy

guidelines for evaluating potential lessors for purposes of leasing property on which to build medical facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BRAT:

H.R. 5823. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to prohibit provision of assistance to or engagement with the Muslim Brotherhood and associated persons; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. BRAT:

H.R. 5824. A bill to provide that it shall be unlawful for foreign nationals of a country that limits the free exercise of religion in that country to make any expenditure in the United States to promote a religion in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BRAT:

H.R. 5825. A bill to amend section 642 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 with respect to communication between law enforcement agencies and the Secretary of Homeland Security about the immigration status of individuals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BRAT:

H.R. 5826. A bill to clarify the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security with respect to detainees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 5827. A bill to require the President to determine whether a sale or transfer of advanced integrated air defense systems to Iran meets the requirements to impose sanctions under certain Iran sanctions laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, the Judiciary, Ways and Means, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts (for herself, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. HONDA):

H.R. 5828. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a high quality child care tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mr. CONAWAY):

H.R. 5829. A bill to provide for the prompt establishment by the Science Advisory Board of the Environmental Protection Agency of the agriculture committee; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 5830. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to apply payroll taxes to remuneration and earnings from self-employment up to the contribution and benefit base and to remuneration in excess of \$250,000; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 5831. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to establish and implement a fatigue management plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DONOVAN (for himself and Mr. JEFFRIES):

H.R. 5832. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for the option to use a diversion program to treat maternal drug abuse in a family-centered medical context,

and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

H.R. 5833. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to address lead contamination in school drinking water, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 5834. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit mobile service providers from providing service on smart phones that have been reported stolen, to require smart phones to be equipped with anti-theft functionality and mobile device identification numbers, and to prohibit the alteration or removal of mobile device identification numbers of smart phones, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 5835. A bill to repeal the minimum State allocation requirement for the Housing Trust Fund established under section 1338 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BUCK, Mr. COOK, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. HARDY, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. STEWART, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. NUNES, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. COFFMAN):

H.R. 5836. A bill to provide for the orderly disposal of certain Federal lands, to benefit education and other purposes through the sales of such lands, to consolidate Federal lands to improve management, to provide for the acquisition of lands for recreational and other opportunities, 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. HASTINGS (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. CLAY, and Ms. BASS):

H.R. 5837. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to remove the exclusion from medical assistance under the Medicaid program of items and services furnished in an institution for mental diseases in the case of inpatient, non-hospital substance use disorder treatment facility services furnished for nonelderly adults; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HULTGREN (for himself, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. MESSER, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 5838. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require the disclosure of the annual percentage rates applicable to Federal student loans; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself and Ms. GRAHAM):

H.R. 5839. A bill to establish an advisory committee to issue nonbinding government-wide guidelines on making public information available on the Internet, to require publicly available Government information held by the executive branch to be made available on the Internet, to express the sense of Congress that publicly available information held by the legislative and judicial branches should be available on the Internet, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. JOLLY (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. KIND, and Mr. HULTGREN):

H.R. 5840. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduced excise tax rate for portable, electronically-aerated bait containers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. NEAL):

H.R. 5841. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a population based payment demonstration project under which Patient Care Networks are paid prospective monthly capitated payments for coordinated care furnished to Medicare beneficiaries; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. KUSTER (for herself and Mr. COFFMAN):

H.R. 5842. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to improve treatment for veterans suffering from opioid addiction and chronic pain, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself and Mr. RATCLIFFE):

H.R. 5843. A bill to establish a grant program at the Department of Homeland Security to promote cooperative research and development between the United States and Israel on cybersecurity; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. VELA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. POCAN, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. ASHFORD, Ms. BASS, Mr. BERA, Mr. BEYER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HONDA, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. ESTY, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. GRUJALVA, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE, Mr. NEAL, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. NADLER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SIRES, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. WALZ, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. JUDY CHU

of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CUPELLAR, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. LEE, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. KILMER, and Ms. DELBENE):

H.R. 5844. A bill to establish a National and Community Service Administration to carry out the national and volunteer service programs, to expand participation in such programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 5845. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish an excise tax on the production and importation of opioid pain relievers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. LEWIS (for himself, Mrs.

BEATTY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRUJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 5846. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to eligible entities to prevent or alleviate community violence by providing education, mentoring, and counseling services to children, adolescents, teachers, families, and community leaders on the principles and practice of non-violence; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LEWIS:

H.R. 5847. A bill to authorize the Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative focusing on peace and nonviolence in global conflict resolution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 5848. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to include individuals participating in pre-apprenticeship programs offered by employers and provide that such employers may be reimbursed under such Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LOEBSACK:

H.R. 5849. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to carry out a grant program for employers to develop and carry out job training programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. HOYER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BECERRA, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. NADLER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SIRES, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H.R. 5850. A bill to provide a coordinated regional response to effectively manage the endemic violence and humanitarian crisis in

El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Financial Services, Education and the Workforce, Armed Services, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), 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, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. NADLER, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. HONDA, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. POLIS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SIREs, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 5851. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reaffirm the United States' historic commitment to protecting refugees who are fleeing persecution or torture; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, the Budget, and Homeland Security, 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. LUETKEMEYER (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 5852. A bill to amend the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970 to confirm that a customer's net equity claim is based on the customer's last statement and that certain recoveries are prohibited, to provide the Securities and Exchange Commission with oversight of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself and Mr. YODER):

H.R. 5853. A bill to amend section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to make mandatory agreements under such section, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide certain identity information to the National Criminal Information Center and the Law Enforcement Support Center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico (for himself and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico):

H.R. 5854. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to enhance protections of Native American cultural objects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York (for himself, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 5855. A bill to provide a requirement to improve data collection efforts; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 5856. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to allow sole proprietors and the spouses and domestic partners of sole proprietors to purchase insurance on the small business exchange, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 5857. A bill to improve the ability of beginning farmers in the United States to acquire farms and participate in agricultural production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCCAUL (for himself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. DUFFY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

H.R. 5858. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish a program to provide additional incentives for the development of new drugs to treat pediatric cancers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCCAUL (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. OLSON, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. FLORES, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Ms. MCSALLY, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. MICA, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. BABIN, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. KATKO, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. ZELDIN, and Mr. NUGENT):

H.R. 5859. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the major metropolitan area counterterrorism training and exercise grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK (for himself, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. COOK, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. VALADAO, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. NUNES, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. TIPTON, and Mr. MCCARTHY):

H.R. 5860. A bill to make a categorical exclusion available to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to develop and carry out a forest management activity on Federal lands to address insect or disease infestation declared as an emergency in a State by the Governor of such State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS:

H.R. 5861. A bill to establish terms and conditions under which the Secretary of the Interior shall convey, for fair market value, certain properties in the Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area in the State of Washington to the permittees of those properties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 5862. A bill to establish a grant program to assist local educational agencies in improving student retention and engagement and providing resources and support to families of at-risk children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 5863. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act to require that firearms purchased with Byrne JAG funds be SMART guns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 5864. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to

provide for mental health training for law enforcement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MEEHAN (for himself and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts):

H.R. 5865. A bill to create penalties for massage establishment owners and employees who fail to report knowledge or reasonable suspicion of sexual assault; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MENG (for herself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 5866. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to extend the coverage of the Federal prohibition against stalking in order to provide protection to friends and co-workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MESSER:

H.R. 5867. A bill to require the development of a national strategy to secure schools against terrorism nationwide, and ensure domestic preparedness for and the response to terrorism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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. MULLIN:

H.R. 5868. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from using any type of fee collected to advertise or market Exchanges established under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MULVANEY (for himself and Mr. HECK of Washington):

H.R. 5869. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to require the National Credit Union Administration Board to provide a rationale for any amounts the Board proposes to use from the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida (for himself and Mr. CLAWSON of Florida):

H.R. 5870. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a grant program to facilitate land acquisitions made to improve water quality, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. NOEM:

H.R. 5871. A bill to provide for a land exchange involving certain National Forest System land in the State of South Dakota, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. NUNES (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 5872. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the taxation of mead and certain low alcohol by volume wine; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 5873. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 511 East San Antonio Avenue in El Paso, Texas, as the "R. E. Thomason Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Mr. LOBIONDO):

H.R. 5874. A bill to provide for the award of medals or other commendations to handlers

of military working dogs and military working dogs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. POLIS, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. ESTY, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KIND, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. FOSTER):

H.R. 5875. A bill to establish requirements for committees of the Senate and the Senate to consider and hold votes on nominations of individuals for appointments to the President, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself, Mr. BRAT, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. COOPER, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. HONDA, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 5876. A bill to require the Director of the Government Publishing Office to establish and maintain a website accessible to the public that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of all congressionally mandated reports in one place, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RATCLIFFE (for himself and Mr. LANGEVIN):

H.R. 5877. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 to promote cooperative homeland security research and antiterrorism programs relating to cybersecurity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:

H.R. 5878. A bill to amend title 38 and title 5, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and other officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive health care from the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 5879. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the credit for production from advanced nuclear power facilities; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RICHMOND:

H.R. 5880. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to prohibit inclusion of Social Security account numbers on Medicare cards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee (for himself, Mrs. BLACK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. FINCHER, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN):

H.R. 5881. A bill to amend the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide notice to State authorities when unaccompanied alien children are placed in that State; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROGERS of Alabama:

H.R. 5882. A bill to establish the Freedom Riders National Historical Park in Anniston, Alabama, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 5883. A bill to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to clarify the duties relating to services furnished in connection with the buying or selling of livestock in

commerce through online, video, or other electronic methods, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 5884. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit a candidate for election for Federal office from using amounts contributed to the candidate's campaign to make payments to vendors owned or controlled by the candidate; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 5885. A bill to require the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate to establish a process by which registered voters may sign national discharge petitions with respect to bills and joint resolutions introduced in or referred to the House and Senate, to require the House or Senate to hold a vote on the passage of any bill or joint resolution if a certain number of registered voters sign the national discharge petition for the bill or joint resolution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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. RUSH (for himself and Mr. PAL-LONE):

H.R. 5886. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide assistance to schools to replace drinking water fountains that may contain lead, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio:

H.R. 5887. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, jointly, to all U.S. nationals who joined the Royal Canadian Air Force or the Royal Air Force during World War II, both before and after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SABLAN:

H.R. 5888. A bill to amend section 6 of the Joint Resolution entitled "A Joint Resolution to approve the Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, and for other purposes"; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SABLAN:

H.R. 5889. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Chalan Kanoa VLG in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as the "Segundo T. Sablan and CNMI Fallen Military Heroes Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SALMON (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. BERA, and Ms. BORDALLO):

H.R. 5890. A bill to promote stability and security in the Asia-Pacific maritime domains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 5891. A bill to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from using funds to carry out the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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 Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California:

H.R. 5892. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to improve social security benefits for widows and widowers in two-income households; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 5893. A bill to regulate certain State impositions on interstate commerce; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SHERMAN (for himself, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. BASS, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. HONDA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. LEE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SIREs, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 5894. A bill to repeal a limitation in the Labor-Management Relations Act regarding requirements for labor organization membership as a condition of employment; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself and Ms. STEFANIK):

H.R. 5895. A bill to establish an improved regulatory process to prevent the introduction and establishment in the United States of injurious wildlife; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Ways and Means, and the Budget, 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. SPEIER (for herself, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. KATKO, and Mr. JONES):

H.R. 5896. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide that it is unlawful to knowingly distribute a private, visual depiction of a person's intimate parts or of a person engaging in sexually explicit conduct, with reckless disregard for the person's lack of consent to the distribution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 5897. A bill to utilize loans and loan guarantees under the rural broadband access program to provide broadband service for agricultural producers and to provide universal service support for installation charges for broadband service for agricultural producers in order to improve precision farming and ranching, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. SWALWELL of California (for himself, Ms. MENG, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. KILMER, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. TED LIEU of California):

H.R. 5898. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of

Education to provide each borrower with an individualized repayment guide; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SWALWELL of California (for himself, Ms. MENG, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. KILMER, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. TED LIEU of California):

H.R. 5899. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for a percentage of student loan forgiveness for public service employment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 5900. A bill to require compliant flame mitigation devices to be used on portable fuel containers for flammable liquids, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TIPTON (for himself, Mr. BUCK, Mr. COFFMAN, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. POLIS):

H.R. 5901. A bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Pueblo, Colorado, as the "PFC James Dunn VA Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TONKO (for himself, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. HARPER):

H.R. 5902. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a temporary higher Federal medical assistance percentage for Federal expenditures under the Medicaid program that are associated with the cost of compliance with certain Federal regulations with respect to services furnished in certain intermediate care facilities or home and community-based services furnished to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. BEYER):

H.R. 5903. A bill to establish the Transition to Independence demonstration program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WALKER (for himself, Mr. BRAT, Mr. PALMER, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, and Mr. BUCK):

H.R. 5904. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to deposit certain funds into the general fund of the Treasury in accordance with provisions of Federal law with regard to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act's Transitional Reinsurance Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on 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. WEBER of Texas (for himself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. FLORES, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. BABIN, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. YOHO):

H.R. 5905. A bill to require full staffing at certain U.S. Border Patrol sectors, amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to provide for double-layered fencing along the entire southwest border, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. YARMUTH, and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 5906. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to adopt rules and conduct outreach to offer recipients of assistance under the Lifeline Assistance Program mobile devices that are capable of receiving a WiFi signal and are capable of tethering with other WiFi compatible hardware or devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

H.R. 5907. A bill to preserve competition among mortgage lenders, provide relief from unnecessary regulatory requirements on responsible community mortgage lenders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. YOHO (for himself, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. KING of Iowa):

H.R. 5908. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide agency heads with additional authority to discipline Federal employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 5909. A bill to ensure equitable treatment of Shee Atika, Incorporated under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act by facilitating the transfer of land on Admiralty Island, Alaska and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana (for himself, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, and Mr. HECK of Nevada):

H.R. 5910. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish within the Department of the Treasury an Economic Sanctions Strategy, Coordination, and Planning Group, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana (for himself, Mr. DELANEY, and Mr. HECK of Nevada):

H.R. 5911. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security and Attorney General to submit a report on the Countering Violent Extremism Task Force, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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. HONDA (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD):

H.J. Res. 97. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to make a quality education a civil right; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H. Con. Res. 147. Concurrent resolution establishing the Joint Ad Hoc Committee on Trade Responsibilities to develop a plan under which the functions and responsibilities of the Office of the United States Trade Representative shall be moved to the legislative branch in accordance with article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules, 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. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. BABIN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. HARPER, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. STEWART, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. MICA, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. POSEY, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. FLORES, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. BUCK, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. RENACCI, Ms. FOXX, Mr. WALKER,

Mr. WALBERG, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. KLINE, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. ROSS, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. COOK, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. NUNES, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. LATTI, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. COLE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. OLSON, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. HARDY, Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. ISSA, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. PALMER, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. YOHO, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. SALMON, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. BRAT, Mr. DENHAM, and Mr. BOUSTANY):

H. Con. Res. 148. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Second Amendment of the Constitution of the United States protects the individual right to keep and bear arms for the purpose of self-defense and that the Second Amendment right is fully applicable to the States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California (for herself, Ms. LEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. ADAMS, and Mr. SERRANO):

H. Res. 832. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Clinicians HIV/AIDS Testing and Awareness Day, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H. Res. 833. A resolution recommending the designation of the first Wednesday of December as "Government Customer Service Day"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. POLIS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H. Res. 834. A resolution recognizing the important role pollinators play in supporting ecosystems and economies; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois (for himself and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H. Res. 835. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should adopt a national policy for technology to promote consumers' access to financial tools and online commerce to promote economic growth and consumer empowerment; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. LOVE:

H. Res. 836. A resolution expressing the disapproval of the House of Representatives of the final rule of the Department of Labor relating to defining and delimiting the exemptions for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. NORTON (for herself and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H. Res. 837. A resolution expressing support for designating August 22, 2016, as national

“Chuck Brown Day” and honoring his contributions to music and to the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

H. Res. 838. A resolution expressing support for designation of April 11 as “National Pet Adoption Day” and the month of April as “National Pet Adoption Month” to highlight the important role pets play in the lives of United States citizens; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

284. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Wyoming, relative to Enrolled Joint Resolution No. 1, to seek removal of the gray wolf and grizzly bear populations from listing under the endangered species act and to assist in funding programs and services for gray wolf and grizzly bear management; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

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. SABLAN:

H.R. 5773.

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

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution:

“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; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5779.

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

The authority for the introduction of this bill is Article I, Section 4, of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H.R. 5780.

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

Article IV, Section III

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H.R. 5781.

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

Article IV, Section III

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 5782.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama:

H.R. 5783.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and the sixteenth amendment [Page H1826]

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 5784.

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

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

By Mr. RUSSELL:

H.R. 5785.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. DeFAZIO:

H.R. 5786.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Clause 3, and Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Ms. GRAHAM:

H.R. 5787.

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

Article One of the Constitution

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 5788.

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 the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 5789.

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; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ:

H.R. 5790.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, United States Constitution (Providing for the common defense and general welfare of the United States).

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 5791.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution provides Congress with the authority to “make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper” to provide for the “general Welfare” of Americans. In the Department of Education Organization Act (P.L. 96–88), Congress declared that “the establishment of a Department of Education is in the public interest, will promote the general welfare of the United States, will help ensure that education issues receive proper treatment at the Federal level, and will enable the Federal Government to coordinate its education activities more effectively.” The Department of Education’s mission is to “promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access

By Mr. HURD of Texas:

H.R. 5792.

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

Article I, Section IX—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.

By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5793.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution under the General Welfare Clause.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 5794.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress “to provide for the common Defence” and the power of Congress 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” as enumerated in Article I, section 8.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 5795.

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

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 5796.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. FARR:

H.R. 5797.

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

Art. 1, Sec. 8, Clause 8 of U.S. Constitution

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 5798.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7.

By Ms. JENKINS of Kansas:

H.R. 5799.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. POLIQUIN:

H.R. 5800.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 5801.

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

Art 1 Section 8 to establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

H.R. 5802.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HARDY:

H.R. 5803.

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

“Clause I of section 8 of article I of the Constitution”.

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H.R. 5804.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. MESSER:

H.R. 5805.

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

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. RIBBLE:

H.R. 5806.

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

Article I grants Congress broad authority on budgetary matters.

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 5807.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 5808.

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

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 5809.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 5810.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof"

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 5811.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, and Article II, Section 2, Clause 2

By Mr. OLSON:

H.R. 5812.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. SCHRADER:

H.R. 5813.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5814.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WALDEN:

H.R. 5815.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. BABIN:

H.R. 5816.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 5817.

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

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BLUM:

H.R. 5818.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause I

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 5819.

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

Article I, Section 4, Clause 1

By Ms. BORDALLO:

H.R. 5820.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. BORDALLO:

H.R. 5821.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 5822.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BRAT:

H.R. 5823.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 gives Congress the power "To Make Rules for the Government."

By Mr. BRAT:

H.R. 5824.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 gives Congress the power "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations."

By Mr. BRAT:

H.R. 5825.

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

Article I, section 8, clause 4 of the United States Constitution expressly gives the United States Congress the power to establish a uniform rule of naturalization

By Mr. BRAT:

H.R. 5826.

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

Article I, section 8, clause 4 of the United States Constitution expressly gives the United States Congress the power to establish a uniform rule of naturalization

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 5827.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 "to regulate commerce with foreign nations"

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 5828.

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

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

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 5829.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. DeFAZIO:

H.R. 5830.

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

Article I Section VIII Clause I

By Ms. DeLAURO:

H.R. 5831.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power * * * To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. DONOVAN:

H.R. 5832.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

H.R. 5833.

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

Article I Section 8 Clause 18

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 5834.

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

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 5835.

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

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

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 5836.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (the Property Clause).

Congress has the power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States. By virtue of this enumerated power, Congress has governing authority over the lands, territories, or other property of the United States—and with this authority Congress is vested with the power to all owners in fee, the ability to sell, lease, dispose, exchange, convey, or simply preserve land. The Supreme Court has described this enumerated power as one "without limitation" in *Kleppe v New Mexico*, 426 U.S. 529, 542-543 (1976).

By Mr. HASTINGS:

H.R. 5837.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. HULTGREN:

H.R. 5838.

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 I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers, vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5839.

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

The legislature power vested in Congress by Article I of the Constitution to conduct oversight of executive agencies, and the "Necessary and Proper" clause found in Article I, section 8, c1.18.

By Mr. JOLLY:

H.R. 5840.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5841.

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

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. KUSTER:

H.R. 5842.

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

Article I, Section 8, Paragraph 18.

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 5843.

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

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 5844.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States of America

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 5845.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and Article I, Section 9, Clause 7

By Mr. LEWIS:

H.R. 5846.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. LEWIS:

H.R. 5847.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 5848.

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

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States grants the Congress the power to enact this law.

By Mr. LOEBSACK:

H.R. 5849.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause I of the Constitution which grants Congress the power to provide for the general Welfare of the United States.

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 5850.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the Constitution.

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 5851.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5852.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5853.

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

Clause 4 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution, which gives Congress the power to establish a uniform rule of naturalization.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico:

H.R. 5854.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 5855.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 5856.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 5857.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. McCAUL:

H.R. 5858.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 3 and 18 of the Constitution

By Mr. McCAUL:

H.R. 5859.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. McCLINTOCK:

H.R. 5860.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (the Property Clause), which confers on Congress the power to make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the property belonging to the United States.

By Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS:

H.R. 5861.

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; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mr. McNERNEY:

H.R. 5862.

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

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. McNERNEY:

H.R. 5863.

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

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. McNERNEY:

H.R. 5864.

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

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H.R. 5865.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to: Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 5866.

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

Article I Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. MESSER:

H.R. 5867.

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

Power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MULLIN:

H.R. 5868.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. MULVANEY:

H.R. 5869.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common

Defence and general Welfare of the United States."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3. "To regulate Commerce . . ."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14. "To make Rules for the Government . . ."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18. "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida:

H.R. 5870.

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

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. NOEM:

H.R. 5871.

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

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2, relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or property belonging to the United States

By Mr. NUNES:

H.R. 5872.

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

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 5873.

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

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof".

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 5874.

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

Article 1

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 5875.

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

Article I, Section 5, Clause 2

By Mr. QUIGLEY:

H.R. 5876.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. RATCLIFFE:

H.R. 5877.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:

H.R. 5878.

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

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

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:

H.R. 5879.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts

and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. RICHMOND:

H.R. 5880.

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

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 18).

Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee:

H.R. 5881.

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

The Constitution of the United States Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and Clause 18.

By Mr. ROGERS of Alabama:

H.R. 5882.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 5883.

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

Consistent with the understanding and interpretation of the Commerce Clause, Congress has the authority to enact this legislation in accordance with Clause 3 of Section 8, Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 5884.

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

Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 5885.

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

Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 5886.

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

Article 1 Section 8—Powers of Congress
The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States;

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio:

H.R. 5887.

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

“The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 18 of Sections of Article I of the United States Constitution.”

By Mr. SABLAN:

H.R. 5888.

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

Under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, 4, 18 and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. SABLAN:

H.R. 5889.

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

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 5890.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 5891.

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

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7—“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.”

By Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California:

H.R. 5892.

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

Article One, section 8, clause 18:

Congress shall have Power—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 5893.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation concerns the legislative powers granted to Congress by that clause to “regulate Commerce . . . among the several States;” Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation exercises legislative power granted to Congress by that clause “to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

By Mr. SHERMAN:

H.R. 5894.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. SLAUGHTER:

H.R. 5895.

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

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 5896.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 5897.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. SWALWELL of California:

H.R. 5898.

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

Article I, Sections 8 and 9 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SWALWELL of California:

H.R. 5899.

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

Article I, Sections 8 and 9 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 5900.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 5901.

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

United States Constitution Article I, Section 8

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 5902.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

“The Congress shall have the Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.”

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

H.R. 5903.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WALKER:

H.R. 5904.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3 and 18.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas:

H.R. 5905.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 & Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 5906.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

H.R. 5907.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (“To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes”)

By Mr. YOHO:

H.R. 5908.

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

Article 1, Section 8: The Congress shall have Power To . . . provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 5909.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5910.

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

Clause 3 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5911.

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

Clause 18 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.J. Res. 97.

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

Article V of the Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills as follows:

- H.R. 12: Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 27: Mr. SALMON, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. TROTT.
H.R. 244: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.
H.R. 430: Mr. DELANEY, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 446: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 448: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 525: Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 551: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois and Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 592: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania and Mrs. LAWRENCE.
H.R. 612: Mr. BENISHEK.
H.R. 665: Mr. DEFazio.
H.R. 670: Mr. HARDY.
H.R. 672: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.
H.R. 711: Mr. HENSARLING.
H.R. 746: Mr. LANGEVIN and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 771: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 814: Mr. LANCE.
H.R. 835: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 842: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 865: Mr. BERA.
H.R. 879: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MCCAUL, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. LONG, and Mr. DUFFY.
H.R. 885: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 912: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 929: Ms. GRAHAM.
H.R. 954: Mr. ROSKAM and Mr. HULTGREN.
H.R. 969: Mrs. BLACK.
H.R. 973: Mr. RICHMOND and Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 980: Mr. FLEMING.
H.R. 1061: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 1117: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 1124: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 1130: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. RICHMOND.
H.R. 1142: Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 1151: Mr. COLLINS of New York and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1192: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York and Mr. BENISHEK.
H.R. 1197: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 1211: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 1218: Mr. DESJARLAIS and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1220: Mr. NUNES and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1258: Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 1271: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1278: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 1284: Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California and Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 1310: Mr. CURBELO of Florida and Ms. MENG.
H.R. 1336: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 1391: Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. AGUILAR, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 1449: Ms. NORTON, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 1516: Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 1549: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 1552: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1559: Mr. BABIN, Mr. PITTINGER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mrs. BLACK.
H.R. 1608: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 1686: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MENG, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.
H.R. 1706: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 1728: Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 1763: Mr. NEWHOUSE and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 1793: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 1811: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 1865: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 1877: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1942: Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 1943: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ and Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 1945: Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 1974: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 2016: Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 2096: Mr. CALVERT, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 2124: Mr. BERA, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 2143: Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 2148: Mr. GOHMERT.
H.R. 2150: Ms. GRAHAM.
H.R. 2169: Mr. NEAL.
H.R. 2170: Mr. RYAN of Ohio and Mr. SHIMKUS.
H.R. 2173: Mr. O'ROURKE and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 2237: Ms. NORTON, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2296: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 2302: Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SIREs, and Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 2315: Mr. FLORES and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 2342: Ms. TITUS, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H.R. 2403: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 2404: Mr. REICHERT and Ms. MENG.
H.R. 2477: Mr. BEYER and Mr. BRIDENSTINE.
H.R. 2483: Mr. SCALISE.
H.R. 2493: Mr. PASCRELL and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 2500: Mr. BABIN and Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 2624: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 2663: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2669: Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 2680: Mr. VARGAS, Ms. BONAMICI, and Ms. MENG.
H.R. 2694: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 2716: Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 2726: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. MCCINTOCK, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. BARR, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. PITTINGER, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BARTON, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. HURT of Virginia, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. DUFFY, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. NUNES, Mr. ISSA, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. YODER, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. KLINE, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. HARDY, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. GIBSON, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. REED, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. GOWDY, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 2737: Mr. KING of New York, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H.R. 2799: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.
H.R. 2813: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.R. 2817: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.
H.R. 2844: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 2849: Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 2883: Mr. GIBSON and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 2902: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 2903: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 2944: Mr. GARRETT and Ms. MENG.
H.R. 2948: Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 2962: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 3012: Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. BARR, and Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 3051: Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 3061: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 3071: Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.R. 3084: Mr. CLAY, Mr. KING of New York, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 3090: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 3095: Mr. PIERLUISI.
H.R. 3099: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 3119: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 3222: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 3229: Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. NEAL, and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 3235: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 3244: Mr. BERA.
H.R. 3255: Mr. DUFFY and Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 3268: Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 3316: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 3337: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 3346: Mr. SCHRADER and Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 3351: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 3377: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 3381: Mr. DENHAM and Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 3455: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 3471: Mr. BERA, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. POLIS, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. VELA, and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 3474: Ms. KAPTUR and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 3481: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 3514: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 3516: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 3520: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 3632: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 3652: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 3656: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD and Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 3659: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 3679: Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 3683: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 3690: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 3706: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, and Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 3710: Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 3720: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 3727: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 3742: Mr. GIBBS, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. POSEY, Mr. DEUTCH, and Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 3743: Mr. BABIN and Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 3765: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 3815: Mr. PASCRELL and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 3816: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 3846: Mr. JOYCE and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 3849: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 3870: Mr. COHEN and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 3882: Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. GRAYSON.
H.R. 3886: Mr. LANGEVIN and Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 3913: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 3929: Mr. MCNERNEY and Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 4007: Mr. YOHO.
H.R. 4055: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 4065: Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 4094: Mr. GUINTA.

- H.R. 4137: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 4151: Ms. STEFANIK and Mr. REICHERT.
H.R. 4172: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 4177: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. DELANEY, and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4202: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 4212: Mr. REICHERT.
H.R. 4214: Mr. CARSON of Indiana and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 4216: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 4237: Mr. MACARTHUR.
H.R. 4247: Mr. HANNA and Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 4287: Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 4320: Mr. LANCE.
H.R. 4363: Ms. STEFANIK.
H.R. 4381: Mr. FORBES and Mr. SABLAN.
H.R. 4394: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 4422: Mr. PIERLUISI.
H.R. 4450: Ms. LEE.
H.R. 4463: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4481: Ms. BASS, Mr. SIRES, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 4514: Mr. GRAYSON and Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 4525: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4526: Ms. SINEMA and Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 4558: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 4559: Mr. HUDSON and Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 4575: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 4585: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 4588: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 4600: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 4603: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 4614: Mr. LONG and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4615: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 4621: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 4622: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4625: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. AMODEI, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 4632: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4662: Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 4664: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4695: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4699: Ms. STEFANIK.
H.R. 4706: Mr. NOLAN.
H.R. 4715: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 4730: Mr. GUINTA.
H.R. 4751: Mr. LABRADOR.
H.R. 4764: Mr. MCNERNEY and Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 4773: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 4833: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 4848: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 4893: Mr. GIBBS, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 4927: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4932: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4938: Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. HURT of Virginia, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 4943: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 4959: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 4980: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 5007: Mr. BOUSTANY.
H.R. 5008: Mr. DONOVAN.
H.R. 5009: Mr. MOULTON, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. BERA.
H.R. 5015: Mr. BOUSTANY and Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 5025: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 5061: Mr. ISSA.
H.R. 5067: Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 5082: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 5095: Mr. NEAL, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 5122: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 5137: Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 5146: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 5157: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 5166: Mr. BERA, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, and Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 5167: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 5168: Ms. SINEMA and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.
H.R. 5172: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 5180: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. BARR, Mr. HURT of Virginia, Mr. LANCE, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. ROUZER, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 5182: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.
H.R. 5183: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. RICHMOND.
H.R. 5188: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 5198: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 5213: Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 5221: Ms. CASTOR of Florida and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5240: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 5256: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 5258: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 5260: Mr. HINOJOSA, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. POLIS, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. POCAN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 5263: Mr. CULBERSON.
H.R. 5271: Mr. BOUSTANY and Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 5292: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 5301: Mr. BABIN and Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 5319: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 5320: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania and Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 5361: Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 5365: Mr. DENHAM.
H.R. 5369: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 5392: Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 5396: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 5404: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 5409: Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 5418: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
H.R. 5428: Mr. CALVERT and Mr. CARTER of Texas.
H.R. 5436: Mrs. DINGELL and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 5440: Mr. HOLDING, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 5457: Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. FLORES, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. PITTS, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 5474: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 5477: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 5484: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 5486: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 5488: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 5489: Mr. HANNA and Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.
H.R. 5499: Mr. GUINTA.
H.R. 5506: Mr. REED, Mr. FLORES, Mr. AGUILAR, and Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 5523: Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 5537: Mr. MCCAUL and Ms. BASS.
H.R. 5545: Mr. RENACCI and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 5555: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 5560: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 5571: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. BEYER, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. EDWARDS, and Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 5576: Mr. DONOVAN and Ms. GRAHAM.
H.R. 5583: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KIND, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 5587: Mr. COOK and Mr. ASHFORD.
H.R. 5591: Mr. POE of Texas.
H.R. 5593: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 5598: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. VELA, and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 5599: Mr. CLAY, Mr. VELA, and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 5613: Mr. GRIFFITH.
H.R. 5619: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. YOHO, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. BUCK, and Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 5620: Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 5621: Mr. PERRY, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. HARPER, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. LANCE, Mr. FLORES, Mr. BRAT, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. HURT of Virginia, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. TURNER, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. COOK, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. HARDY, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. MICA, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. MESSER, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. ISSA, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. DOLD, Mr. KIND, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CLAY, Ms. BASS, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SIRES, Mr. WELCH, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, Mr. HONDA, Mr. WALZ, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. MENG, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Ms. ESTY, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. POLIS, Mr. SHERMAN, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 5625: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 5646: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 5650: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 5654: Mr. JOYCE.
H.R. 5659: Ms. SINEMA and Mr. BARTON.
H.R. 5666: Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 5668: Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BARR, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. FLORES, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 5671: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CLAY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 5682: Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. LEE, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 5683: Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 5686: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 5689: Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 5691: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MACARTHUR, and Mr. ZELDIN.
H.R. 5697: Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia and Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 5704: Mr. COOK and Mr. JONES.
H.R. 5708: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Mr. DONOVAN.
H.R. 5719: Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 5720: Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. SIRES, and Ms. MENG.
H.R. 5721: Mr. HARPER.
H.R. 5727: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 5728: Mr. LONG.
H.R. 5732: Mr. KEATING, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 5734: Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. WESTERMAN, and Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 5746: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. POLIS, and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 5747: Mr. STEWART.
 H.R. 5749: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 5755: Mr. VISCLOSKEY and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
 H.J. Res. 13: Mr. LABRADOR.
 H.J. Res. 22: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. ADAMS, and Mr. JEFFRIES.
 H.J. Res. 52: Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. SABLAN, and Mr. O'ROURKE.
 H.J. Res. 55: Mr. KATKO.
 H.J. Res. 95: Mr. MOOLENAAR and Mrs. LOVE.
 H. Con. Res. 114: Mr. HARDY and Mr. NUGENT.
 H. Con. Res. 128: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
 H. Con. Res. 132: Mr. KEATING.
 H. Con. Res. 140: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. JONES, Mr. YOHO, Mr. SALMON, Mr. KIND, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. BERA, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. BENISHEK, and Mr. FINCHER.
 H. Con. Res. 141: Mr. ALLEN, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. VEASEY.
 H. Con. Res. 143: Mr. POCAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mr. WELCH.
 H. Con. Res. 146: Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. BLUM, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. SHUSTER.
 H. Res. 112: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia and Mr. COHEN.
 H. Res. 184: Mr. NOLAN.
 H. Res. 289: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.
 H. Res. 331: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.
 H. Res. 360: Mr. GIBBS, Mr. KIND, and Mr. MCKINLEY.
 H. Res. 424: Mr. KATKO.
 H. Res. 467: Mr. FARR, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. WELCH.
 H. Res. 494: Mr. McCAUL and Mr. HENSARLING.
 H. Res. 586: Ms. MATSUI.
 H. Res. 591: Mr. HIGGINS and Mr. NUGENT.
 H. Res. 634: Mr. KEATING and Mr. SHERMAN.
 H. Res. 686: Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. NEAL, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
 H. Res. 728: Mr. HECK of Washington.
 H. Res. 729: Ms. BASS, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.
 H. Res. 739: Mr. COHEN.
 H. Res. 740: Mr. TURNER.
 H. Res. 753: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. TED LIEU of California.
 H. Res. 776: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia and Ms. KAPTUR.

H. Res. 782: Mr. O'ROURKE and Mr. KING of New York.
 H. Res. 784: Ms. DELBENE.
 H. Res. 786: Ms. MENG.
 H. Res. 807: Mr. KEATING.
 H. Res. 808: Mr. SHERMAN.
 H. Res. 810: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. POSEY, Mr. KATKO, Mr. MACARTHUR, and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.
 H. Res. 811: Mr. GUINTA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
 H. Res. 813: Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HARPER, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. NUGENT.
 H. Res. 817: Ms. STEFANIK and Mr. MULVANEY.
 H. Res. 824: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 2446: Mrs. LAWRENCE and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 4019: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
 H. Res. 686: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XV, the following discharge petition was filed:

Petition 6, July 11, 2016, by Mr. COURTNEY on H.R. 1434, was signed by the following Members: Mr. Courtney, Mr. Welch, Mr. Perlmutter, Mr. Connolly, Mr. Deutch, Mr. Larson of Connecticut, Ms. Bass, Mr. Jeffries, Mr. Tonko, Ms. Eshoo, Ms. Clark of Massachusetts, Mr. Kildee, Mr. Hoyer, Mr. Takano, Mr. Thompson of California, Ms. Velázquez, Mrs. Watson Coleman, Ms. Clarke of New York, Ms. Sewell of Alabama, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. Capuano, Mrs. Dingell, Ms. Kuster, Mrs. Capps, Mr. Pocan, Mr. Walz, Mr. Ryan of Ohio, Mr. Bera, Ms. Slaughter, Mr. Murphy of Florida, Mr. Cartwright, Mrs. Torres, Mr. Sires, Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania, Mr. Thompson of Mississippi, Mr. Ruiz, Mr. Huffman, Mr. Nadler, Mr. Keating, Mr. Crowley, Ms. Michelle Lujan Grisham of New Mexico, Mr. Gene Green of Texas, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Ashford, Mr. Doggett, Mr. Yarmuth, Ms. Hahn, Mr. Kilmer, Ms. Linda T. Sánchez of California, Mr. DeFazio,

Mr. Cohen, Ms. Brownley of California, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Ms. Meng, Miss Rice of New York, Mr. Payne, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Ms. Brown of Florida, Mrs. Carolyn B. Maloney of New York, Mr. Bishop of Georgia, Ms. Kelly of Illinois, Mr. Cicilline, Mr. Butterfield, Mr. Langevin, Ms. Pingree, Ms. Duckworth, Mr. Vargas, Ms. Speier, Ms. DeLauro, Ms. Schakowsky, Mr. Levin, Mr. Loeb sack, Mr. McNerney, Mr. Cárdenas, Mr. Moulton, Mr. McGovern, Mr. Conyers, Mr. Michael F. Doyle of Pennsylvania, Mr. Gutiérrez, Ms. Frankel of Florida, Ms. Wilson of Florida, Ms. Castor of Florida, Mr. Clay, Ms. Moore, Ms. Titus, Ms. Kaptur, Mr. Cuellar, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Carney, Ms. Bonamici, Ms. Esty, Mr. DeSaulnier, Mr. Honda, Ms. Lofgren, Ms. Roybal-Allard, Mr. Van Hollen, Mr. Ted Lieu of California, Mr. Sarbanes, Mr. Aguilar, Mr. Nolan, Mr. Lowenthal, Mr. Israel, Mr. Quigley, Ms. Fudge, Mrs. Beatty, Mr. Swalwell of California, Mr. Hinojosa, Mr. Pascrell, Mr. Heck of Washington, Mrs. Bustos, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Becerra, Mr. Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico, Ms. Matsui, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Ms. Tsongas, Mr. Rush, Mr. Grayson, Ms. Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas, Mr. Brady of Pennsylvania, Mr. Polis, Mr. Neal, Mr. Sean Patrick Maloney of New York, Mr. Ruppersberger, Mr. Schiff, Mr. Schrader, Mr. Gallego, Ms. Maxine Waters of California, Mr. Al Green of Texas, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Beyer, Mr. Foster, Ms. Judy Chu of California, Mr. Higgins, Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Mr. Larsen of Washington, Mr. Norcross, Ms. McCollum, Ms. Adams, Ms. Jackson Lee, Mr. Castro of Texas, Mr. Cleaver, Mr. Meeke, Ms. Edwards, Mr. Carson of Indiana, Ms. DelBene, Mr. Kind, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Ellison, Mr. Vela, Ms. Lee, Mr. Delaney, Ms. DeGette, Ms. Pelosi, Mr. Farr, Mr. O'Rourke, Mr. Price of North Carolina, Mrs. Davis of California, Mr. Clyburn, Mr. Rangel, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Loretta Sanchez of California, Mr. Smith of Washington, Ms. Gabbard, Ms. Sinema, Mr. Danny K. Davis of Illinois, Mr. Pallone, Mr. Veasey, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Engel, Mr. Blumenauer, Mrs. Lowey, and Mr. Sherman.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS— ADDITIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petition:

Petition 5 by Mrs. LOWEY on H.R. 5044: Mr. Jeffries, Mr. Crowley, and Mr. Levin.



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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2016

No. 114

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.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.

God of peace, help us to receive Your peace today and become Your instruments of reconciliation on Earth. Forgive us for the times we have permitted acrimony to deface Your image in humanity. Use our lawmakers to communicate Your peace, bringing hope and healing to our Nation and world. Lord, make our Senators channels of Your grace to transform discord into harmony and conflict into cooperation. Help us to hear the drumbeat of Your direction and march to the cadence of Your guidance.

And Lord, bless the illustrious summer 2016 Senate page class that prepares to leave Capitol Hill. Thank You for the faithfulness of these outstanding young people.

We pray in Your wonderful 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELLER). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Chair lays before the Senate the House message to

accompany S. 2943, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: Resolved, That the House insist upon its amendment to the bill (S. 2943) entitled "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes," and ask a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

COMPOUND MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to disagree in the amendment of the House, agree to the request from the House for a conference, and appoint the following conferees: Senators MCCAIN, INHOFE, SESSIONS, WICKER, AYOTTE, FISCHER, COTTON, ROUNDS, ERNST, TILLIS, SULLIVAN, LEE, GRAHAM, CRUZ, REED, NELSON, MCCASKILL, MANCHIN, SHAHEEN, GILLIBRAND, BLUMENTHAL, DONNELLY, HIRONO, KAINE, KING, and HEINRICH.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to disagree in the House amendment, agree to the request from the House for a conference, and the appointing of the following conferees: Senators McCain, Inhofe, Sessions, Wicker, Ayotte, Fischer, Cotton, Rounds, Ernst, Tillis, Sullivan, Lee, Graham, Cruz, Reed, Nelson, McCaskill, Manchin, Shaheen, Gillibrand, Blumenthal, Donnelly, Hirono, Kaine, King, Heinrich.

Mitch McConnell, John McCain, Tom Cotton, Kelly Ayotte, James Lankford,

John Thune, Orrin G. Hatch, Johnny Isakson, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, John Hoeven, Joni Ernst, Deb Fischer, Jeff Sessions, David Perdue, Richard Burr, Dan Sullivan.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 10, H.R. 4465, H.R. 4487, AND H.R. 4901

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there are four 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 (H.R. 10) to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 4465) to decrease the deficit by consolidating and selling Federal buildings and other civilian real property, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 4487) to reduce costs of Federal real estate, improve building security, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 4901) to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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 having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATION BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it is hard to understand why our Democratic friends continue to filibuster the funding needed to fight Zika.

We have already shown the reality behind various claims and half-truths about the compromise anti-Zika conference report: the idea that it would underfund Zika; the idea that it would prohibit funding for or deny access to birth control; the idea that it would actually weaken clean water protections;

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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the idea that its offsets don't have any bipartisan support; the idea that it would cut funding for veterans. We have shown that all of these claims just don't stand up to scrutiny.

Despite all this, Democrats now say they will only accept the Zika bill if it limits health care funding in the territories that need it most, drops critical funding for our veterans, and even restricts the ability to kill mosquitoes. That is apparently their position. My friend the Democratic leader warns that these mosquitoes are "vicious," "awful," and "ravaging." He is just not all that interested in killing them.

So I would like to echo the words of the senior Senator from Texas, who said that our Democratic colleagues seem to be operating in a "logic-free zone" when it comes to Zika. It is time to get back to reality. This is a serious crisis that demands serious solutions. It is time for our friends to start worrying less about pleasing outside political groups and start worrying more about actually helping the Americans who are counting on all of us.

We have a conference report. It is before us. It contains the exact level of funding to fight Zika that Democrats already agreed to—\$1.1 billion. It includes more health care funding than the bill that originally passed the Senate. It does not prohibit funding for or deny access to birth control. It contains bipartisan offsets that move money from lower priorities to higher priorities. It contains temporary but meaningful reforms that actually allow us to fight mosquitoes in an effective way. It also honors our veterans with record levels of funding.

This compromise conference report offers the only way to get this done now. The only way to achieve the outcome is to pass this conference report now. We could pass it today.

I am urging our colleagues to please look within themselves and make the right decision. Otherwise, what will they say to pregnant mothers this summer? What will they say to our veterans the rest of the summer?

I hope our friends will think about what they will say to our Active-Duty troops as well. As every colleague knows, there are two types of bills necessary to fund our military. First is the Defense authorization bill, which authorizes the many things our military needs. Democrats voted with us to pass that important bill last month. Second is the Defense appropriations bill, which actually funds the things the Defense authorization bill authorizes. That is the bill Democrats have been filibustering since last week. In other words, Democrats are happy to make promises to our men and women in uniform with the Defense authorization bill, but they are not prepared to keep those promises by actually passing the Defense appropriations bill.

Both the current and incoming Democratic leaders essentially just made this point themselves. Here is what the senior Democrat from New York said just yesterday:

[A bill] without actual appropriations . . . is like a Hollywood movie set: Something that appears real on the surface but has no substance and no life behind its false facade.

Here is what my friend the Democratic leader said:

Authorizing legislation is a start, but without resources, it's very, very meaningless.

Very, very meaningless. A false facade. Harsh words from Democrats about their own actions on defense funding.

In an attempt to make a misleading political point about the CARA bill—a point that doesn't hold water, of course—these Democratic leaders inadvertently stepped on their own party's message for opposing the funding bill our military needs. If they really believe what they said to be true, then why are Senate Democrats blocking the Defense appropriations bill when they talk about how important it is to actually provide "real funding"? This is a defense funding bill that the top Democrat on the Defense Subcommittee called "a responsible approach to protecting our country." It is a bill that every single Democrat and every single Republican supported in the Appropriations Committee. It also respects the budget caps in place. It is the epitome of regular order—the epitome of regular order. Senate Democrats may try to spin their actions now, but it all boils down to one thing: This is just a partisan game.

At a time when we face an array of daunting challenges around the globe, it is imperative that the Senate take the next steps today to provide the resources and training our servicemembers need.

The CIA Director recently said he would be surprised if ISIL isn't trying to carry out an attack in the United States like the one we saw recently in Istanbul. And we are continuing to see terrorism hit home in Orlando and San Bernardino and across the world in places like Bangladesh and Baghdad and Saudi Arabia. These factors only underscore the importance of taking up and passing this defense funding bill as soon as possible. They also underscore the importance of our Commander in Chief finally leading a campaign to defeat ISIL, which is the only way to end ISIL-directed and ISIL-inspired terrorism once and for all.

It is clear that preventing future attacks inside our borders requires defeating ISIL where it exists—beyond our borders. Passing this defense funding bill is crucial to achieving that goal, just as it is crucial to fulfilling the commitment that President Obama made last week regarding the 8,400 troops who will remain in Afghanistan through the end of his administration. The President's statement represents another glaring example of why the Senate must pass this Defense appropriations measure. It is what is needed to fund the training to prepare forces for deployment to Afghanistan and the weapons they will carry and the spare

parts and fuel consumed in training and operations and the ammunition they will need to execute their missions. It also includes resources to fund basic pay, deliver necessary medical services, and support quality-of-life programs that military families count on. The President has made a commitment to our allies, and we must meet our commitment to the force.

Our men and women in uniform courageously put themselves in harm's way to help keep our country safe. They do so willingly. They do so voluntarily. They don't ask for such in return, and they never ever forsake their commitment. Senators shouldn't forsake their commitment, either.

Today, our Democratic colleagues will have the opportunity to join us in meeting the first part of that commitment by voting to go to conference on the Defense authorization bill. Then they will have the opportunity to join us in meeting the second part of that commitment by voting to end their filibuster of the defense funding bill so we can pass it.

America's men and women in uniform don't need "false facades" or "very, very meaningless" gestures from our Democratic colleagues. They need Democrats to put politics aside and join us in advancing a strong Defense authorization bill and a strong Defense appropriations bill because our servicemembers and our national security depend on both of these bills.

Despite Senate Democrats' efforts to put partisan politics before pressing issues like national security and Zika, the Republican-led Senate is working hard to advance solutions for the American people.

One newspaper recently declared that the Senate "has settled into a new normal" under Republican leadership, "passing bills at [a] rate not seen in decades." That is good news for the American people, and here is why.

The new normal includes more than 225 bills that have been passed, along with more than 140 bills that have become law, and I am not just talking about bills from Republicans but bills from Democrats as well. For instance, the senior Senator from Delaware who has seen four of his bills become law; for instance, the senior Senator from California who has seen three become law; and, for instance, our Democratic colleagues from Rhode Island and Minnesota who saw the CARA bill they worked on with Republican Senators like Senator PORTMAN, Senator AYOTTE, and Senator GRASSLEY pass yesterday.

CARA is a comprehensive legislative response to the prescription opioid and heroin epidemic that is ravaging our country. Legislation to address this epidemic languished under a previous Judiciary chairman, but Senator GRASSLEY worked to change that. He made it a priority, and he moved it swiftly. CARA wouldn't have been possible without him, just as it wouldn't have been possible without Members

like PORTMAN and AYOTTE, who have worked to drive this bill forward every step of the way. I would also like to thank Senator ALEXANDER for his work in the conference committee to secure a strong final bill. The bill we passed will help protect Americans from addiction and overdose, and we expect the President to sign it into law soon.

Here is another important bill we passed yesterday and also expect the President to sign into law soon. It is the most comprehensive aviation security reform legislation in a decade, and it contains significant consumer protections for airline passengers as well. This important bill will help protect Americans at our airports and in our skies, and it would not have been possible without the good work of Senator THUNE, who worked with Senator NELSON to guide it through to passage.

In just the past week or so, we saw the crisis in Puerto Rico, and we responded with responsible legislation designed to prevent a taxpayer bailout and at the same time help the Puerto Rican people.

We saw the threat of rising food prices for middle-class families, and we responded with science-based legislation designed to prevent confusing and costly laws in one State from raising grocery bills in another.

While Senate Democrats are now trying to make it impossible to get the basic work of government accomplished with some filibuster summer sequel, we have been able to make progress there too. The full Appropriations Committee has approved all 12 funding bills—at a record early time and with broad bipartisan support—many of them with unanimous backing from both sides. The full Senate has passed some on the floor, and if our Democratic friends would work with us, we could pass the others as well.

The Republican-led Senate set out to give these appropriations bills ample amount of floor time for Senators to debate the measures so more of the American people could be represented in the lawmaking process, and that is what we have done.

The Republican-led Senate set out to give colleagues from both sides more of a voice, allowing amendments and bills from both sides because better process leads to better results for the American people, and that is what we have done. We did so because this Republican majority is following through on what we set out to do from the beginning: open up the legislative process, get committees up and running again, empower Members from both sides, find areas of common ground, and advance legislation that can make a difference for people all across our country.

Just because Democrats are again reverting to their dysfunctional ways because they believe it suits them politically, it doesn't change the reality that we have made significant progress in restoring the Senate to significantly better health.

We have clearly put the Senate back to work too. There are so many other

measures we have passed besides those I have mentioned already: ground-breaking reforms in education and in transportation, permanent tax relief for families and small businesses, trading more of Washington's annual patches and punts for real solutions. All of these good ideas and so many more are now law, which benefit the people we represent.

We have gotten so much done already, but there is much more we can do, as long as our Democratic colleagues aren't determined to obstruct for its own sake. I think many on the other side have much to ponder over this upcoming State work period. Think about Zika, my Democratic colleagues. Think about veterans over the summer. Think about our men and women in uniform. Then they will have to decide, do they want to continue with these partisan games on critical issues like Zika and National Defense or do they want to work with us to keep making progress for our country.

We will certainly give them more opportunities to make progress on appropriations. We will certainly give them opportunities to make progress on important issues like Energy and Defense. Even if Democratic leaders might prefer dysfunction and partisan games, Members from both sides know the Republican-led Senate has given them more of an opportunity to move legislation and their constituents more of a voice.

Let me say that again. This Republican-led Senate has given all Senators more of an opportunity to move legislation; thereby, giving their constituents more of a voice.

With continued hard work and cooperation from our friends across the aisle, we can continue to add to that record of achievement for the people, the American people all across our country. After all, isn't that what they sent us here for?

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

ISSUES BEFORE THE SENATE

MR. REID. Mr. President, I assume my Republican friend feels that if you say just the opposite of what is valid and true, some people will believe it. You talk about a logic-free zone, as my friend mentioned—boy, we got one in the last half hour here. We do have a new normal here, and it is not a good new normal. Take, for example, defense. The Republican leader resorts to name-calling, trying to paint Democrats as weak on defense. He cites Democrats voting against proceeding to the Defense appropriations bill before we have a budget deal.

Let me remind the American people, let me remind the Republican leader, the result of Democrats blocking the Defense appropriations bill three times last year was we got a better budget, a much better budget. We got a budget agreement that increased spending for national security by \$33.5 billion over the sequester. It was their sequester

level; that is, they wanted to cut it even more. That is the truth.

The further truth is that the defense of our country, the security of our country, depends more on the Pentagon. We have every Democrat who is just as patriotic as any Republican. We believe in the security of this Nation just as much as they do. We look at that differently, though, in this sense: I repeat, the security of this Nation is more than bombs and bullets. It is also making sure we have an FBI that works and is adequately funded. It also means the Drug Enforcement Administration has the personnel to do their job. It also means the Department of Homeland Security, created by a Republican President, is up and running and able to do its job. They have tremendous responsibilities. The border security is their problem. They have to deal with that, and it has to be adequately funded.

We have issues that relate to the security of this Nation. For example, the Centers for Disease Control has to be adequately funded. They don't do bombs or bullets, but they do take care of this Nation's security.

The National Institutes of Health, one of the premier organizations in the history of the world, helps us become a more secure nation. So we are going to continue—we will block today, if he brings it up again, the Defense appropriations bill. Why? Because he wants to do that. It is so obvious. He wants to do that and walk out of here and leave the other appropriations bills stirring in the breeze and meet the craziness we see out of the House of Representatives as it relates to spending.

We want more resources for our troops, but if we get more resources for our troops, we are going to get more resources for those entities that keep us safe and secure that aren't Pentagon-related.

Again, I assume my friend believes that if you keep talking about something that is absolutely untrue, people will think it is true. For example, let's take the Zika situation we have in America today. No one disputes the fact that these mosquitoes are ravaging and are horrendous. Mosquitoes have been very difficult and dangerous. They have been terrible since recorded history. They cause death and illness. It is hard to comprehend. For the first time in the history of the world, we have now the mosquito spreading a virus that causes women to have deformed babies—badly deformed babies.

What we did, on a bipartisan basis, the senior Senator from Washington and the senior Senator from Missouri got together and they came up with a Zika funding measure. I felt it was inadequate dollarwise. We agreed with the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health that it should be \$1.9 billion. We said: OK. We will go along with this because it is an

emergency. It is like all emergencies, whether it is flood, fire, or wind, whatever it might be. This is an emergency, and it should be treated as such—\$1.1 billion, no offsets. We passed that with 89 votes. Every Democrat voted for it and virtually every Republican voted for it. It went to the House of Representatives.

Now, here is where my friend's logic-free zone really pops in hard. Remember what we sent to the House of Representatives, and here is what they sent back to us. There is no disputing this, even though he can say it a million times if he wants. Under the bill we got back—and the Republicans in the Senate approved what happened in the House—Planned Parenthood, an organization where hundreds and hundreds of thousands of women go for their care, do you think they are going to have a little rush of business now? Because women in America today want to make sure they have the ability to not get pregnant. Why? Because the mosquitoes ravage pregnant women. Under the logic of my friend the Republican leader, they don't need to go to Planned Parenthood. They can go to their boutique doctor someplace in Las Vegas or Chicago or Lexington, KY. They can go to an emergency room and say: I am sorry, I didn't get birth control; will you help me? That isn't what emergency rooms are for. That is what Planned Parenthood is for. The vast majority of women who need help, that is where they go, Planned Parenthood. Under the legislation we got back from the House, there is no money to be provided for that.

We know the Republicans don't like the people who wear the green eyeshades, the so-called environmentalists. So what did they send to us? They had to do something. The only thing they could get out of the House of Representatives—they have to do something to attack the environment so they said: Well, here is what we will do. With spring, we are going to eliminate the Clean Water Act, which makes it extremely dangerous. That is why the EPA looks at this so closely and all other Federal agencies. The Clean Water Act is the law of the land, and it has been for decades. They eliminate that.

The Republican leader gets up here and talks about: I hope they are happy—words to that effect—what they are doing to veterans. The bill we got back as it relates to Zika takes \$500 million from veterans—from the Veterans' Administration. That is what they did. I can't make this stuff up. What was that money to be used for? Processing claims.

The Presiding Officer has been out front on finding a way to speed up veterans' claims. They need to be handled more expeditiously. There was a provision in the original legislation to give them \$500 million to speed it up, but now that money will be put toward the Zika bill. It is gone.

Two years ago a ravaging epidemic swept Africa—Ebola. It was terribly

hurtful to the people of Africa. People in America were afraid. We had nurses and doctors coming here to be treated because we had better facilities than they have in Africa. Well, it is still around, and they are still putting out fires as we speak. The bill we got back from the House took \$107 million from the Ebola funding. Everyone knows that the \$543 million they took from ObamaCare to help fund the Zika matter—I could raise a point of order right now and it would go out. No one disputes that.

As Speaker Boehner said—just to demonstrate how crazy they are over there in the House—they couldn't get something passed there unless they did something to take care of the really, really, really rightwing crazies. What did they do? They struck a prohibition on displaying the Confederate flag. They wanted to be able to fly the Confederate flag at military cemeteries. That is the bill we have which also deals with Zika. How can anyone in good conscience vote for that? We can't, and we are not going to. Of course, it sets up the terrible precedent of offsetting emergency spending.

It is July 14, and the Senate is going to take a short, 7-week break. As we heard the Republican leader say: It has all been done. We have done great things here. He scheduled the Senate for a 7-week summer break—vacation, time off, call it whatever you want. It is the longest Senate recess in more than 60 years. We would like stay and work. I would like to work for the people of Nevada and the rest of the American people, but the Republicans don't want to hear any of this. They want to go listen to Donald Trump. Some of them may not be there because they are kind of embarrassed to be seen with him, but they will watch it on TV.

We will be back in September to tie up loose ends and make sure that the government gets funded, but that is about all we have the ability to do now.

As we get ready to adjourn for 7 weeks, let's look at just a few of the things that are being left behind, such as Zika. The Republicans are choosing vacation rather than protecting pregnant women and their babies from these terrible birth defects that can be prevented.

Have we done anything about guns? No, even though the Republican leader said we would have a vote on guns, we are not going to have a vote on guns. The legislation sponsored by the Republican Senator from Maine, joined by a significant number of Democrats—the Republican leader said we would have a vote on that. Why? Well, we thought it would be a good idea to make it so that suspected terrorists can't go out now and legally purchase a gun or explosives. No, we will not have a vote on that.

What about criminal justice reform? Look at what is going on in the country today. Is there a need for justice reform? Of course there is. We have a bi-

partisan bill that is drowning in the Judiciary Committee. We understand there is only a handful of Republicans who don't support this. Democrats support it. They have refused to address the failings of our criminal justice system despite ample bipartisan support on and off Capitol Hill.

How about the Supreme Court? Republicans still refuse to give Merrick Garland a hearing and vote. Do I need to say more about that? I don't think so.

What about Flint, MI? The whole city was ravaged by lead. Thousands of boys and girls will now never be who they could have been because of lead in their water. There is no relief for them—zero relief. There are 100,000 people who live in that city. They were all adversely affected and poisoned.

What about the opioid epidemic? We passed a bill, which is the first step, but they refused to fund it. They will make due with money they had from before, and now all these additional duties will be given to all of these agencies. We passed the conference report to address opioid addiction, but we don't have the money to do the things we are asking these agencies to do. These are just a few of the things. I guess they are the immediate issues.

What about the other problems the Republicans have ignored for 19 months? How about something for the middle class? How about creating a few jobs? How about building some roads or repairing our very delicate bridges, dams, and our water and sewer systems?

Nothing has been done about the minimum wage, pay equity, student loan debt, job creation—nothing, nothing, nothing. We have crumbling roads and bridges.

What about basic American rights? What has Senator McCONNELL done or said about ensuring justice for the American people? Nothing.

This is the headline from today's Politico: "Mitch McConnell's historic judge blockade." I didn't write the headline. I will read a couple of paragraphs.

Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland may be the most prominent casualty of the GOP-controlled Senate's election-year resistance on the Federal judiciary—but the pace of overall judicial confirmations under Mitch McConnell is on track to become the slowest in more than 60 years. Under the McConnell-led Senate, just 20 district and circuit court judges have been confirmed at a time when vacancies are hampering the Federal bench nationwide.

This is nothing to be proud of.

The Republican leader instituted a blockade of judicial nominations. He did it last year. Last year they made history by confirming the fewest judges since the 1950s, but they will do even less this year. Because of their obstruction, judicial emergencies—those courts with more cases than judges can handle—have more than doubled. That means that Americans seeking justice are being denied their constitutional rights. Here is the issue. I have been

there. I spent a lot of time in courts. That is what I did. I was a trial lawyer. I can remember going to both the State and Federal courts, and they said: Sorry, but we are going to do criminal cases for the next few months and not do anything with civil cases. Civil cases are just as important as criminal cases, but because of what the Republicans have done, judges will be forced—because of the law—to take care of the criminal cases and put the civil cases in the back of the bus.

What about voting rights? Senate Republicans have done absolutely nothing—zero—to protect Americans' right to vote. Time and again this Republican Senate has proven itself to be a colossal failure. Yet Senator MCCONNELL has had the nerve to pat himself on the back every day for all he and the Republicans have done in this Congress.

The bipartisan bills that have passed this Congress were blocked by Republicans in past Congresses. That is a fact. I, as the leader here, had to file cloture more than 500 times because of obstruction and filibusters by the Republicans.

Let's be real honest here. Let's do the logic. These bills passed because Democrats have been a constructive minority. We have worked with the Republicans when they were willing to work with us, but there are too many reasons why this Republican Congress has been a flop. First, Republicans made a calculated decision to appease the most radical fringes of their party. Who do they have? They have Donald Trump.

Second, there has been a serious erosion of trust since the Republicans assumed the majority. Promise after promise to the American people has been shattered and broken. Senator MCCONNELL promised to pass a budget every year. We have no budget.

Senator MCCONNELL promised a full Senate workweek. We have worked one Friday in 19 months.

Senator MCCONNELL promised no show votes. Yet today the Republican leader will force unnecessary revotes on Zika, and I am sure he will force a revote on Defense appropriations. This will be the eighth time in this Congress that the Republican leader has resorted to this tactic. It is his signature move. He is the record holder—it is not a good one—on revotes.

Senator MCCONNELL promised an open amendment process. I can remember him coming out here and saying: REID filled the amendment tree. Well, he must have learned from me because he has gotten really good at it. He has filled the amendment tree 16 times. These are all commitments that the Republican leader made to the American people which have not been honored.

There have also been a number of promises made within the Senate that have been broken. Both sides of the aisle have been left waiting for the Republican leader to keep his word—his

personal word. This troubles me. I have been in this Congress for 34 years. I don't like to talk about this, but I have experienced his not keeping his word firsthand.

I had a meeting right here regarding a woman by the name of Jessica Rosenworcel. She wanted to be renominated to the Federal Communications Commission. That was in December of 2014. Senator MCCONNELL, Senator THUNE, and I had an agreement that I thought was made in good faith. The agreement was simply this: I would agree to do a Republican. We always did them together. We paired them. They said: No, we have to do this. He worked for the Senator from Arizona. He wanted to make sure that they took good care of the Senator who just left the Senate.

The agreement was that we would confirm Michael O'Rielly to the FCC, but in exchange, as soon as the new year came, they would go with Rosenworcel. That was supposed to happen in the next Congress. O'Rielly was a longtime staffer for Senator Kyl and had also worked for Senator CORNYN.

Jessica is a very talented lawyer who worked for Jay Rockefeller.

It was very unusual to do what I agreed to do, but in good faith I accepted the word of two Republican Senators. We traditionally confirm members on bipartisan boards by pairing nominees—one Democrat and one Republican. I agreed to do this out of the goodness, frankly, of my heart. I have never had the experience where someone simply didn't keep their word, and that is what has happened. I wasn't alone. Somebody who works on the Senate floor—and has for years—was there when that conversation took place.

The Republican leader asked me to make an exception, and I did. I agreed with his personal commitment that when the next Congress convened, Republicans would reconfirm Jessica Rosenworcel. I was promised that. I didn't have to agree to this, but I did it because the Republican leader said he would do his part and get Rosenworcel confirmed. Nineteen months have passed, and the Republican leader has yet to keep his word with me.

We had a big, important spending bill last year. It did a lot, but—no one disputes this—the staff of Senator MCCONNELL made a mistake and didn't put language in dealing with section 48 of the renewable tax credits, and everybody acknowledged that it was too bad. He acknowledged the drafting error and that the staff made a mistake. Republicans committed to correct their drafting error in the next revenue bill that the Senate considered. This has been unfulfilled. We could have done it with the FAA bill, but it will not be done there. He told Leader PELOSI: We are going to do that. I promised REID I would do it. Well, it hasn't been done.

It is a sad Senate when people do not keep their word, but maybe they will

address those two issues. A new day will come in September. This is what Democrats and the American people have come to expect from Republicans—promises not kept, commitments not honored, and work not done. "Integrity" is a simple word, but here in the U.S. Capitol, it is everything.

I hope it turns around come this fall. If Republicans will stay and work instead of taking this 2-month break, we can do something to address all these issues, including Zika, Merrick Garland, and guns. But that is as much as we can do if they refuse to do their jobs.

Mr. President, I am sorry that Senator MCCONNELL and I have taken so much time, but we do that once in a while.

I ask that the Chair announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). Under the previous order, the time until 11:30 a.m. will be equally divided between the leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Nevada.

VA FUNDING

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I rise to speak today on an issue that Congress has always been able to rally around with bipartisan support. We don't hear that mentioned a lot recently in these Chambers, but something we have always been able to come together on is our Nation's veterans.

As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, advocating on behalf of our Nation's and Nevada's brave heroes has been one of my greatest privileges, but it has also been a challenge, especially in recent years. Whether it is timely appointments for health care, eliminating the disability claims backlog, or addressing poor performance, I am constantly fighting for accountability within the VA.

It has taken years of work on the local level in both northern and southern Nevada to get good leadership in our VA regional office and the Reno and Las Vegas VA hospitals; however, all of that work is in vain if Congress does not provide the VA with the robust funding it needs to deliver high-quality care and benefits in a timely manner.

Under Republican leadership in the Senate, we have been trying to return to regular order and the appropriations process. You would think that for an issue as serious as veterans, the Senate would be able to come together to pass the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations act. Yet my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are continuing to play partisan politics and have rejected this effort.

This important appropriations bill—something we will vote on later this afternoon—includes an increase of funding over the last year, as well as important provisions I have been advocating to help Nevada's veterans. First off, it includes an amendment I filed to ensure completion of the Rural Veterans Burial Initiative so that rural

communities like Elko, NV, have a veterans cemetery that honors our veterans and all of their service.

Second, I secured an amendment to hold the VA accountable for the progress they are making to eliminate the disability claims backlog. As co-chair of the VA Claims Backlog Working Group, I have been fighting to get this backlog to zero.

But I am concerned that the VA isn't feeling the pressure to get that job done. A lot of progress was made, but for 10 months now the VA has been stuck with a 20-percent backlog. I haven't forgotten the commitment the VA made to give veterans a timely answer on their disability claims, which is why my amendment sends a clear message to the VA that Congress is still watching and still expecting results.

It is not just my amendments that are important to this bill. It is the funding that will help those who have sacrificed the most—our veterans and their families. When I sat down with veterans and the military community at roundtables in both northern and southern Nevada just a few months ago, I was struck by how far we really have to go.

Thousands of veterans are suffering from post-traumatic stress and struggling to find the care they need. Post-traumatic stress not only impacts veterans, but it impacts their family members who aren't always sure just how to get the help they need. Some of them fall into homelessness and don't know where to turn and, frankly, they just don't trust the VA. At its worst, we have more than 20 veterans committing suicide every day. Let me repeat that. We have more than 20 veterans committing suicide every day—20 a day.

I had a Nevada veteran's wife tell me how she had to jump through hoops just to get her husband a cardiology appointment through the Choice Act. It took her 3 months—3 months—to get that appointment. She said to me how she would never give up fighting for her husband's health. I continue to see how veterans come to my office for help with getting an appointment or moving their disability claims along.

We cannot expect the VA to solve these problems without funding. So I continue to urge my colleagues to pass the conference report today for VA appropriations so we can fix these problems. While funding can go a long way to providing resources for veterans, we cannot forget that the VA still struggles with accountability.

There are plenty of high-quality VA employees working every day to help our veterans, and many of those employees are in the State of Nevada. These are the ones that cared for my father at the Reno hospital, and I give the VA credit for his health today.

But then there are those employees who are gaming the system and have forgotten that the VA's mission is to serve the interest of veterans and their

families and no one else. Yet the VA can't even fire these people because the Department of Justice says it is "unconstitutional." So think about that. There is nothing more disappointing to me than the Department of Justice preventing these VA employees from being fired or demoted after poor performance. Instead of siding with veterans, the Department of Justice sides with the bureaucrats who don't belong at the VA. I think it is an insult—an insult to veterans and an insult to the American public.

I know that Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman ISAKSON and other committee members share my concern about this, including the Presiding Officer. Rather than ignoring this issue and Congress's intent, it is time for the Department of Justice to step up and step forward to talk to Congress about what can be done to ensure that bad VA employees are quickly removed.

Accountability has to be a priority of the VA. Secretary McDonald understands this, just as funding for the VA should be a priority for the Senate. Again, I call on my colleagues to move the appropriations bill forward so that we can keep our commitment to veterans and we can fix the long list of issues that plague our VA.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

REMEMBERING BILL ARMSTRONG

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, on July 5, the United States lost a great public servant, and Colorado lost one of its fiercest advocates. Bill Armstrong's contributions to Colorado and the country embody the virtues of integrity, devotion, and kindness and reflect his priorities of liberty, faith, and family. His mark on this world will never be forgotten.

Over the course of his life, Senator Bill Armstrong was known for many of his achievements and titles: U.S. Senator, U.S. Congressman, youngest majority leader in the State legislature, and, most recently, being elected president of Colorado Christian University, just to name a few.

But what has been reinforced to me over the last number of days since his passing were not the titles he held or the bills and the amendments he passed through committee or the Senate, but the way in which he carried himself, the respect he gave his staff, his family, and his constituents. He was a thoughtful, peaceful, graceful individual, and he always interacted with those values in mind.

It is the stories about how he treated his staff and how he listened to his constituents that stand out in our minds. Today, as we reflect on the impact he had on this country, it is the stories about the lasting effect his words had on impressionable young minds at Colorado Christian University and the relationships he built with Democrats and Republicans alike, despite the frequent bitter and partisan fights that riddled Congress while he served. He

once described himself as "relatively inflexible on principles, but flexible on the details," never confusing the two when working toward meaningful solutions that required compromise, always listening, ever respectful of those he may have disagreed with.

While I never worked for Senator Armstrong, a number of my closest friends, advisers, and so many of the elected officials in Colorado are a part of the Armstrong legacy and alumni of his great work. The stories they shared with me about their time with Bill Armstrong are incredible.

Sean Conway, a former staffer for Bill Armstrong, now a county commissioner in Colorado, talks about the time that Senator Bill Armstrong went to meet with the refuseniks, as they came to be known—Jewish people living in the Soviet Union who were being persecuted for their views and wanted to leave the Soviet Union for a better life. He went there without contacting his staff, without letting them know how he was or where he was, because he was afraid that the KGB would find out the work that he was doing and the harm that it could cause the people he was meeting with and perhaps even to the staff back home. But he knew he had to bring that message of what was happening with the persecution in the Soviet Union back to his colleagues in the Senate to make sure they understood so they could put an end to the tragedy that was happening in the Soviet Union.

His staff remember Bill Armstrong fondly—a number of whom got married as a result of having met while working for him. One former staff member, Roy Palmer, recounted this: "Bill Armstrong was one of the brightest and most successful persons I've ever met. Yet he didn't have a college degree . . . He spent his life improving his education; reading, studying, debating . . . with a discipline I've never seen before. But he was reluctant to divulge the fact that he didn't have a degree not because he was embarrassed by it, or ashamed about it. Rather he thought it might set a bad example for young people to abandon their education. I think he knew God gave him a special gift of intellect, discipline and drive . . . but he was also extremely aware, compassionate and tolerant of others around him who didn't have the same gift. As he became more successful and older he also became more humble."

And while there are likely hundreds of other stories about how Bill Armstrong embodied true Christian virtues, lived out the words he spoke, and touched people's lives on a very personal level, the work he did in Congress simply cannot go unnoticed. As one former staffer said, "Bill Armstrong should be known as the Father of Tax Indexing." And no doubt, every taxpayer should thank him for his work on tax indexing because without it, many Americans would be forced to go into a higher tax bracket because of inflation. He fought for it because he believed that just because someone got a

well-deserved cost of living adjustment—or COLA—increase they shouldn't have to pay more taxes because of it.

Bill Armstrong was also instrumental in the passage of the Colorado National Forest Wilderness Act of 1980 that helped preserve 1,400,000 acres of land in Colorado. The lands, which stretch across the entire State, are areas visitors and Coloradans alike enjoy each and every day.

We can all only hope that when we pass on from this life it is first, not the memories others hold of our earthly accomplishments, but what God knows in our hearts to bring us truly home, and then to know we are remembered for the good we have done in this world. Long after our crowning achievements in Congress have faded away from memory, we can all only hope that we are remembered for who we were and the things we did to help lift others up and help them find their purpose in life. As evidenced by the tributes and statements made over the last week since his passing, Bill is known for just that. He lived out the Christian faith he taught. He led hundreds of prayer breakfasts and served on the board of Campus Crusade for Christ and Christian Businessmen's Committee USA. But perhaps more importantly, he was a mentor—as evidenced by the countless stories of students whose lives were changed just because of thoughtful words from Bill Armstrong.

A staff assistant in my office wrote an email to me after his passing describing his "life-changing conversations" with Bill Armstrong—part of which I'd like to read: "The first time I met President Armstrong was before I started attending CCU. I asked to meet with him for five minutes, but true to Armstrong form, he took an hour out of his day to talk about the school and shared why it might be a good fit. After I was convinced and started at CCU, a year later I got to have lunch with him to discuss my interest in economics; he told me to pursue that passion at George Mason for graduate school—his words from that conversation are the reason I'm in D.C. . . . President Armstrong's legacy is bound up in the life he led, walking the walk, adhering to principles and a devotion to serving others."

Alan Simpson, on the day that Senator Armstrong was giving his farewell speech, said: You have heard the saying that you would rather see a sermon than hear a sermon. Alan Simpson and all of us got to see that every day in Bill Armstrong.

On the day Senator Armstrong came to the Senate floor to say farewell, he was joined by others, including our colleagues and many others. He left the Senate in his farewell speech to colleagues, and from my understanding in conversations with his family, he left this life hearing these words from the Scriptures read by his family, from the last verse of the last book of the Holy

Scriptures: The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

As Senator Armstrong walked off the floor of the Senate, he served his fellow man over the last 10 years at Colorado Christian University. He served in the House, in the Senate, and in the Colorado Legislature. He has now walked into a far better place, where we all hope to join him some day.

I yield to my colleague from Colorado.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, it is indeed a privilege to be here with my colleague Senator GARDNER as we recognize the life of a dedicated Coloradan, former Senator Bill Armstrong.

Last week, Senator Armstrong passed away after a 5-year battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife Ellen, daughter Anne, and son Will.

He was an accomplished businessman, a longtime public servant, a dedicated educator, and, most importantly, a husband, father, and grandfather. He held strong principles and beliefs that he conveyed with eloquence and clarity. No one ever could question Senator Armstrong's devotion to Colorado or to his students.

As a young entrepreneur, Senator Armstrong bought his first radio station at the age of 22 and began a long and successful business career. Over the course of his life, he owned or operated more than a dozen businesses, including radio station KEZW in Denver, Ambassador Media Corp, and the Sun newspaper in Colorado Springs. He also served as chairman of Oppenheimer Funds in Denver.

Much of Senator Armstrong's adult life was driven by service, which began when he joined the U.S. Army National Guard, where he served from 1957 to 1963. Following his military service, he began his almost three decades in public service. He was a member of both the Colorado House and Senate and served, as Senator GARDNER said, as Senate majority leader before being elected to Congress in 1972.

After three terms in the House of Representatives, he was elected to the Senate in 1978. Senator Armstrong brought to this Chamber real world experience, which is often in short supply; a business acumen, which is also often in shorter supply; and a deep belief in the potential of those he served in Colorado.

His business background and his knowledge of economic issues earned him spots on the Banking, Budget, and Finance Committees. Throughout his time in the Senate, Senator Armstrong brought important attention to the deficit and budgetary issues. He was a founding member of the Senate Deficit Reduction Caucus. He ultimately chaired the Finance Subcommittee on Social Security, and President Reagan selected him to serve on the National Commission on Social Security Reform. This commission was not like those we see around here these days. It

actually produced meaningful proposals and extended the longevity of the Social Security Program for decades and served as a model of how Congress can work together to tackle difficult and complicated issues.

While Senator Armstrong was deeply conservative, he often found ways to forge bipartisan compromise. His service on the commission was emblematic of this approach, and it is an approach that is sorely lacking in Washington today.

Senator Armstrong was also a strong advocate for our military and the men and women in uniform. He fought to honor those who served in the Korean war and to create a permanent GI bill. He recognized the importance of providing access to postsecondary education, a passion he continued to pursue long after he left this Chamber.

He pushed increased pay for our servicemembers, especially to ensure that military families had sufficient economic support. In an opinion piece in the New York Times, he wrote: "With the G.I. Bill to boost recruiting and pay increases to ease the retention problem, the all voluntary military forces can be preserved and we can end the disgraceful treatment of Americans in military uniform." His impassioned advocacy led the Army Times to call Armstrong "the military pay champion" of the Senate.

As a Western State Senator, he, of course, worked on wilderness and conservation issues that are so important to our State, including the Colorado National Forest Wilderness Act of 1980. Because of his integrity and work ethic, his colleagues asked him to serve as chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee for 6 years.

President Reagan once referred to Senator Armstrong as "one of the strongest voices in the United States Senate."

President Bush called him "one of the finest men . . . in Washington" and "one of the best and brightest." The best testimonials to Senator Armstrong came from his own colleagues in the Senate:

Former Senator Dole described him as having "been widely recognized as one of the most gifted and persuasive speakers."

Senator HATCH said "Senator Armstrong has been one of the most eloquent advocates in the Senate for his point of view."

Senator COCHRAN said: "I do not know of anyone in this body who is more respected for his integrity and ability than is Bill Armstrong."

Finally, former Senator Wirth, my predecessor and his fellow Senator from Colorado, said the following:

I do not think any individual has expressed his own views more articulately than has Bill Armstrong, nor has anybody pursued them more passionately than he has.

I have enormous respect for that passion, Mr. President. It is precisely that sense of indignation that sometimes Bill Armstrong shows on various issues. It is the kind of indignation that drives this institution, and should.

That is quoting Tim Wirth.

Like many of his predecessors and successors from Western States, the pace and discourse of the Senate was often confounding and frustrating, but he believed it to be “the greatest legislative body in the world.” He appreciated the role the institution plays in our country and felt it was an honor to serve here. But, more than just the institution, he loved his fellow Members. He loved the people of the Senate. He called them a family, brought together by “shared experiences and ideals and great love of our country and aspirations for the future.”

His respect and appreciation for the Senate, for the work we do here, and for the people here showed in his approach to the job. As Senator Wilson noted, “in his zeal as an advocate he has been respectful of those who oppose him.” More than that, he was, Senator Wilson believed, “generous in terms of his own personal conduct, even in heated debate.”

The Durango Herald called Senator Armstrong “civil and patient in interacting with fellow members of Congress,” and the Denver Post recognized Senator Armstrong’s “statesmanship.” These are words and descriptions we don’t often hear around this Chamber much anymore.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have these editorials printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the DenverPost.com, July 7, 2016]

BILL ARMSTRONG’S CONSERVATISM ALLOWED ROOM FOR BIPARTISANSHIP

(By the Denver Post Editorial Board)

Bill Armstrong was a man of strong convictions. No one who knew the former U.S. senator, who died this week at 79, would quarrel with that statement, or with the fact that his beliefs were both deeply conservative and religious.

And yet Armstrong’s most memorable accomplishment during his 12 years in the Senate was almost certainly his service in 1983 on the National Commission on Social Security Reform, which recommended a bipartisan package of reforms that Congress would ultimately enact. The deal involved sacrifice on both ends of the political spectrum, including higher payroll taxes, more benefits subject to taxation, a hike in the retirement age, and a delay in the cost-of-living adjustment.

The settlement didn’t fully resolve Social Security’s long-term funding woes, but it was a milestone compromise nevertheless. And it remains instructive, since a similar deal is unthinkable, unfortunately, in today’s political environment.

In today’s Washington, a firebrand conservative as dedicated to small government and low taxes as Armstrong was would surely spurn such a commission as unworthy of his time—if not an insult to his principles. But not only did Armstrong participate, he became the panel’s conservative conscience in terms of insisting that any entitlement fix not rely solely on additional payroll taxes. And his efforts paid off in extracting concessions from Democrats even as he reluctantly accepted more taxes.

Such statesmanship on major issues is sorely lacking in today’s Congress—and yet

the need to address entitlements’ mounting long-term liabilities, as well as complex issues like immigration, has seldom been greater. Fortunately, such stalemate is nowhere ordained as inevitable. Armstrong’s example on the 1983 commission provides reason for hope even in today’s divisive political culture.

This newspaper did not always share the former senator’s political agenda—his vocal opposition to gay rights, for example, was especially regrettable. But even those who disagreed with him on major issues had to admire the eloquence and civility with which he often framed his case. And meanwhile, his signature concerns about the impact of spending and taxes on average Americans led to significant achievements, such as the indexing of the income tax—a reform that loomed much larger when the memory of the 1970s’ high inflation was still fresh.

Armstrong left the Senate on his own terms while still in his 50s, an age when many career politicians are just hitting their stride. And he would go on, years later, to put his stamp on Colorado Christian University, spearheading ambitious redevelopment plans to expand and update the campus with state-of-the-art educational facilities. That he would contemplate such a grand goal in his 70s surprised no one who knew him well. Colorado has lost a giant in its political and civic life.

[From DurangoHerald.com, July 10, 2016]

FORMER U.S. SEN. BILL ARMSTRONG REMEMBERED FOR APPROACHABILITY, CIVILITY

At a time when everyone is speculating as to how Congress became so dysfunctional, with both parties refusing to communicate and to compromise on almost every issue, we can remember political figures in years past when that was not the case. Bill Armstrong, who served two terms in the U.S. Senate beginning in 1978 and who maintained deep fiscal and social principles, was someone who was civil and patient in interacting with fellow members of Congress and his constituents and in advocating for what he believed. We remember Armstrong during his visits to Southwest Colorado as being approachable and a listener.

Armstrong died last week at 79.

Armstrong was unusual in attending but not graduating from college, and he grew up and had his first business successes in Nebraska before moving to Colorado. He was skilled at owning and operating radio stations in that state initially, and then radio and television stations in Colorado.

Nor did Armstrong make a career out of politics. After retiring from the Senate in January 1991, he left Washington, and he eventually became president of Colorado Christian University in Denver.

Armstrong is best known for his fiscal discipline, and on the social front for opposing gay rights initiatives. In the latter, he was out of tune with the country and what was right. He challenged President Ronald Reagan’s proposed 1981 budget as too generous in future years, and succeeding in having it reduced. In 1983 he was a member of a bipartisan entitlement review commission that advocated higher Social Security taxes for individuals and employers, reduced benefits and a higher age eligibility, all in order to put Social Security on stronger financial footing. Two of the three were adopted (the higher age eligibility failed).

Democrats were a part of the commission and needed to pass the legislation, and Armstrong had both the political respect and skills to help bring them on board.

(Thirty-three years later, Social Security still requires more of the same adjustments, and it was Republican plans in that direction

that have played a role in Donald Trump’s rise in popularity.)

Sen. Bill Armstrong’s demeanor and his willingness to join with members of the other party to craft legislation for the country’s benefit is a reminder of what used to take place in Congress. That is something that does not occur today.

Mr. BENNET. Senator Armstrong once described himself as “relatively inflexible on principles” but “flexible on the details.” A former high school debater, he always spoke with passion and knowledge in an attempt to sway people his way. But when it came time to get the job done, he understood how to make a deal.

Senator Armstrong had a fiercely passionate, strongly principled yet pragmatic, respectful, and constructive approach to his work. We could use a lot more of that around here.

Later in life, Senator Armstrong decided to give back to his country and community in a different way—by serving as president of Colorado Christian University. He called his work at the university “the most significant, energizing, and rewarding work I have ever undertaken.” He had a vision for the college and for his students, and he devoted all his energy to their success.

Under his leadership, Colorado Christian University has flourished. Enrollment more than doubled and freshman retention increased. The school has been ranked in the top 2 percent nationally for its core education and was named a “college of distinction.” The university’s endowment has almost doubled. The school has begun substantial redevelopment plans to expand and update the campus. He cared deeply for his students and will be greatly missed by the CCU community.

In fact, I recently asked Senator Armstrong for his input and perspective as part of a task force on higher education. I knew I could count on him to provide thoughtful advice on how to improve our system of higher education. He was glad to assist in our efforts.

Senator Armstrong had a deep respect for democracy and our country’s future. He represented a time when Members of Congress held true to their convictions but knew when to forge compromise for the greater good. His is a legacy that will benefit Americans for generations to come. His example will be missed and cherished by those of us who still serve in the Senate.

There is one last point. None of us is going to be here forever, and we should keep that in mind. I think Senator Armstrong understood that. He was committed to stewardship when he was here in the Senate, and that is an example we should all follow.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with my colleagues for 20 minutes, with the remaining time reserved for Senator MCCAIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mrs. ERNST. Thank you, Mr. President.

I would like to thank my colleagues here today who are joining in this colloquy. We have the junior Senators from Alaska and Montana, and we hoped to be joined by the junior Senator from North Carolina as well.

As I stand here today, my brothers and sisters in arms are deployed overseas. Regardless of what the President tells us, our servicemembers are at war. They are in combat, and their combat boots are on the ground.

I think our colleagues across the aisle have forgotten that as they continue to filibuster our Defense appropriations bill. We have men and women serving overseas. They are serving for us overseas. They also seem to have forgotten that all of those servicemembers are paying attention. I know because I was once one of those servicemembers deployed overseas, paying attention to the actions of the folks here in Washington.

Right now our servicemembers are watching the minority leader, and our enemies are watching just as closely.

This bill appropriates \$515.9 billion for our national security, and \$900 million of this funding is for the National Guard, a critical arm to the security of the United States, where I served for 23-plus years.

My National Guard unit is in the Middle East right now. My Iowa Army National Guard unit, the unit that I commanded as a battalion commander, is serving in the Middle East right now.

The minority leader doesn't care about their safety while they selflessly serve to ensure ours. He doesn't care that this bill has funding for equipment critical to their mission. He doesn't care that their families are depending on them to come home safely, and he doesn't care that his actions once again make America look weak. The minority party is filibustering this bipartisan Defense appropriations bill solely at the expense of our men and women in uniform. Those are the facts on the ground today.

I know the importance of this bill firsthand, and I stand here today ready to vote in favor of it, and I know my colleagues understand that as well.

Once again, I want to thank the Members that are joining us in this colloquy today: the junior Senators from Alaska, Montana, and North Carolina. I know this is a very important issue to all of us.

With that, I would like to turn to the junior Senator from Alaska, who also is a fellow in arms, Lt. Col. DAN SULLIVAN, U.S. Marine Corps, to hear his comments.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Iowa who has distinguished military service and just retired. We are honored that she is leading this colloquy today.

I am honored to be here with some of my colleagues. Our freshman class sees this as a critical issue, and many of us

have been on the floor all week to stress the importance of what Senator ERNST just spoke about—funding our troops and stopping this filibuster that denies our troops funding.

Although we have been out here all week, I am not sure I have seen any of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle coming to the floor to try to explain to the American people why they have filibustered funding for our troops not once, not twice, not three times but four times in the last year. Hopefully, they will not do it again today for the fifth time.

It has been a good week for the Senate. We passed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which was bipartisan. Senator WHITEHOUSE, Senator PORTMAN, and Senator AYOTTE led that. We passed the FAA authorization, led by Senator THUNE and Senator NELSON, which will protect the American people in the aviation space.

But we have more important work today on defense issues and on national security issues, and much of it is dealing with supporting our troops. This is not a partisan issue. They need the support.

This past week, the President and Secretary of Defense have made many more commitments with regard to our troops, with 8,400 troops in Afghanistan, 560 additional troops in Iraq, 1,000 additional troops in Poland and a battalion headquarters, and two carrier battle groups in the South China Sea. They are protecting us, they are supporting us, and we should be doing the same. It is that simple.

Along with my colleagues, I find it amazing, remarkable, and, to be quite honest, I find it sad that the minority leader is encouraging a filibuster of the Defense appropriations bill again for the fifth time in a year.

I think my colleagues on the other side of the aisle should reject this approach. They are going to have the opportunity in the next hour to come down here and actually vote to fund our troops, and I guarantee that regardless of what State they are from, regardless of what political party they represent, the American people in every State of the United States support funding our troops and dropping this ridiculous filibuster against the men and women in uniform who are out there right now protecting us.

I call on all of my colleagues to do the right thing by our troops and by the American people and to vote today to fund our troops.

All of my colleagues have been very focused on this, but no more so than my colleagues from Iowa, North Carolina, and Montana. All of us have significant military populations and experience.

I yield the floor to my colleague from Montana, Senator DAINES, to further discuss this important issue.

Mr. DAINES. I thank Senator SULLIVAN.

What an honor to stand here today next to two lieutenant colonels—Lieutenant Colonel ERNST and Lieutenant Colonel SULLIVAN.

Lieutenant Colonel ERNST was the first woman to ever serve in combat and also serve in the U.S. Senate. I am truly grateful for their service.

I thank them also for organizing this colloquy and bringing us together. The leadership they provide as Members who have worn and do wear the uniform of the U.S. military and also serve in the Senate is critical in this most perilous time for our Nation as we face the many threats around the world—and to think that the Senate is going to recess tonight for an extended summer recess and leaving the very important unfinished business of funding the U.S. military and our troops.

Today the Senate Democrats are expected to once again block the consideration of the Defense Appropriations Act of 2017, denying our troops proper funding and support they deserve. What kind of message does that send to the men and women who are today putting their lives at risk to protect our country? What message does that send to them?

As Senator SULLIVAN said, and Senator ERNST, this is not the first time. It is not the second time. It is not the third time. It is not the fourth time. It is the fifth time we will see our friends across the aisle, Senate Democrats, filibuster the funding of our troops. This reminds me of "Goundhog Day."

What is even more frustrating, the Senate Democrats are refusing to even debate the issue. I spent 28 years in the private sector. I will tell you, one way to assure you don't get anything done is to not even discuss it. That seems to be the road the Senate Democrats are taking. It is the low road, not the high road.

They would prefer to once again obstruct what we call regular order in this body, much in the same fashion they did during the past few years, which became the hallmark of a failed Democratic-led Senate majority. While our troops are actively engaged in multiple theaters across the world, and they need the critical support for our growing mission overseas, my friends from across the aisle are actively blocking our troops from being combat-ready.

Let's remember—just remember this: A few short weeks ago, the House of Representatives passed this bill on a solid bipartisan vote, 282 to 138—48 Democrats supported that bill. It passed with strong bipartisan support. Then, over here on the Senate side—I serve on the Appropriations Committee. We passed this bill out of the Appropriations Committee by a vote of 30 to 0—30 to 0. That is called a shut-out, that is called running up the score.

I remember that clearly. Not one Democrat opposed this bill to fund our troops when it passed out of committee. Yet, when it comes to the floor, the Senate minority leader now is instructing the Senate Democrats to filibuster getting the bill even debated

here as well as passed on the Senate floor. What has changed? What has changed? Nothing has changed, except for the fact that our troops are not getting the funding and support they need. Is that what you really want, Mr. Minority Leader?

The passage of this legislation is critical to carrying out the missions in an increasingly dangerous world. I can tell you one thing: Our enemies are not waiting for Senate Democrats to fund our troops and make it a fair fight. This bill pays the salaries of 1.2 million military Active Duty, 800,000 Reservists. The Senate Democrats are saying no to almost 10,000 troops engaged, right now as we speak, in combat in Afghanistan, an additional 5,000 troops in harm's way in Iraq, and many more throughout the globe.

I come from Montana. We have one of the highest per capita vet populations in the United States. I am proud of the Malmstrom Air Force Base. We have one-third of our Nation's ICBMs ready at any moment here to defend our freedom. They silently sit across the plains of Montana. Senate Democrats are failing them. It is unacceptable.

As the Senate heads home for the work period, I challenge my Democratic colleagues to go back home and look at those veterans and those Active-Duty troops in the eyes and ask: Did I serve these selfless men and woman or did I let the minority leader of the Democrats play cheap party politics with funding their pay? The minority leader's constituents in Nevada deserve more, Montanans deserve more, and the American people deserve more.

I want to now recognize the junior Senator from North Carolina THOM TILLIS, who has an amazing group of Active military and veterans there in North Carolina. I am proud to stand here with Senator TILLIS. I look forward to what Senator TILLIS has to say.

Mr. TILLIS. I thank Senator DAINES for all the work he does in supporting our troops, and Lieutenant Colonels SULLIVAN and ERNST, I thank them for their service to the Nation—their continued service. I thank Senator SULLIVAN for continuing to pound on this. It is important.

Yesterday, or earlier this week, I talked about how this is approaching personal with me. I am going to try and not get as loud as I got a couple of days ago, but I want to talk about what this means. I want to talk about the process, an appropriations process where all 30 members of the Appropriations Committee, including 14 Democrats, voted for this bill.

What we are trying to do now is have the broader membership vote for it and send it out of the Chamber. All Democrats—and I would not be surprised, if you went on their social media presences or if you took a look at press releases, that they rightfully announced to their constituents how they voted to support a bipartisan appropriations bill coming out of committee.

Now, I want them to follow up with a press statement that says HARRY REID tells me I have to vote no now. I have to say no to troops. I am not going to support providing critical funding for training and readiness and overseas contingency operations. I don't know about you all—in the Gallery or people watching on C-SPAN—I don't feel particularly comfortable with the situation around the globe. I don't like what Russia is doing.

So we have to put resources in portions of Europe to make sure we can counter the potential threat there. I don't like what China is doing in the South China Sea. So we are having to pay more attention to that and have resources looking at it to protect that region. I generally don't like what Iran is doing. I mean, they have welched on commitments they made in the Iran nuclear deal. They are funding Hezbollah and Hamas and the Iran terror network across the world, including this hemisphere. I don't like what is going on in Syria. I think Iraq has problems, much of it created as a result of the President's withdrawal. Well, good news. He recognizes that maybe we need to increase our presence there. How are we going to pay for those extra 564 soldiers that are going to secure the airstrip that was won over by the Iraqi forces? Where does it come from?

That is a commitment he has made so it is going to come from somewhere else. It is certainly not going to come from the increased funding we are trying to get through this appropriations bill. I don't know about you all, but I believe the generals and the intelligence community that come before our committee and say we are in some of the most dangerous times in their lives. The threats are everywhere. America has to lead because when America doesn't lead, the world is a less safe place. America leads. The tip of the spear is our armed services, our presence across the globe to protect the freedom of other nations and to protect our own freedom. Failing to vote for this bill is failing to make sure they are trained, equipped, and capable of defending freedom.

I want to talk about the personal side of things for the folks down at Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune and Seymour Johnson and New River and Cherry Point—marines, airmen, people in the 82nd Airborne, the 18th Airborne Corps, and the conversations I bet they are having with their husbands or wives.

When they come home from training and they hear the commanders down at Fort Bragg say: We are just not getting enough repetition in. We are trying to teach these men and women how to jump out of planes in hostile situations with 100 pounds of equipment connected to them and do that safely.

I don't know about many people, but I don't think I would want to do that if I weren't trained and ready and had the muscle memory to make sure I was

going to do that safely. The Global Response Force down at Fort Bragg takes it to another level. They not only have to drop 1,000 or so men and women out of planes, they also have to drop entire cities out of planes: earth movers, weather stations, medical hospitals, all the things you need to provide relief in the event of a disaster or that you need to support a combat operation. We are sapping the resources to be able to do that.

So here is how the discussion, I think, goes with the men or women who go home before they get deployed:

Honey, I am about to be deployed somewhere.

Maybe it is Iraq, maybe it is Afghanistan, some other part of the world.

I am a little bit nervous because I only got about 80 percent of the training I really needed, that the Army or the Air Force or the Marines deem necessary for me to be able to do that job safely and be certain I can complete the mission. I am sorry, Hon, I have sworn to defend this country. So I am going to do it, but I know I am not at the level of training and capability I should be.

Then they say goodbye and that spouse, hopefully, sees that person come home again. So, you know, guys, politics is an interesting thing. Debate is an interesting thing. We have heard the theater on the floor today that has nothing to do with the vote we have before us. We have heard global warming. We have heard all of these other things. What we have not heard is from the Democrats who voted for this precise bill.

Some people lead you to believe it has changed since they voted for it. It has not changed. It is precisely the same bill, but they have a minority leader who says: Don't vote for it. Play my game. Let us then come down here and say: Do your job.

We are doing our job right now. JONI ERNST is doing her job. DAN SULLIVAN is doing his job. STEVE DAINES is doing his job. I am doing my job by saying: You guys went into a committee and you voted for this bill. You went home and told everybody you are supporting our troops. Now you have a minority leader who is telling you: Don't do your job and let's go on the floor and pretend those of us who want to support our troops are not doing our job.

It is disingenuous, at best, and it is dishonest, at worst. My colleagues here, we need to pound this issue. I need to go home and be able to tell the story and say: We support you, Fort Bragg. We support you. We are going to do everything we can to get this bill passed.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry: How much time is remaining on the Republican side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is a total of 6 minutes remaining on the Republican side. Senator ERNST has 1 minute left in her colloquy.

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, I yield back my time.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I reserve the remainder of my time until just before the vote at 11:30.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum, and I ask unanimous consent that my time be preserved for the remaining 7 minutes before the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. 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. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator PERDUE be recognized for 5 minutes and that it not be taken from my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I appreciate the accommodation.

I would like to add to what has been said here in the last few minutes.

We are at a very critical juncture during this Congress and, indeed, in our country. What I want to talk about today is the nonsense that is going on right now on funding our military. These are men and women in uniform around the world whose mission it is to protect our freedom.

Let me remind everybody that there were only six reasons why the Thirteen Colonies got together in the first place to create this Union. One of those was to provide for the national defense. Yet here we are basically trying to do what the President has asked—fund the military—and we are being obstructed by the people across the aisle. I just don't understand that.

Right now, we have people who are in danger of not being able to fulfill their missions around the world. A member of the Foreign Relations Committee, I have traveled extensively over the last 1½ years. Around the world, I have seen where dedicated men and women don't have the resources to fulfill their missions, and it endangers the very freedom we have here at home.

I believe this is a critical point in this Congress to tell the American people that we are either going to break through this gridlock and move to do what is right or we are going to sit here on our hands and argue the political side of this while our men and women are in danger.

One of the hardest things to understand right now is the fact that in the last 30 years, we literally have continued to disinvest in our military. This chart shows how we have disinvested in the military under the last three Democratic Presidents. This green line is a chart of the percentage of GDP we spend on our military. It has gotten down all the way to where today we are

spending 3 percent of our GDP. It is the lowest point in the last 30 years. I will say this: The 30-year average here is about 4.2 percent. That differential is 100 basis points. What that means is, in the size of the economy today, it is about \$200 billion. Put that in perspective. We are spending about \$600 billion on our military today. Can you imagine what a difference that would make?

The last time a Secretary of Defense put a budget up based on a bottom-up estimate of need based on the missions around the world—it was Secretary Gates in 2011. In 2011, he estimated that for 2016 and 2017—what we are talking about here in their budget—his estimate was some tens of billions of dollars more than what we are doing now. His estimate was prior to ISIS and prior to Russia's activity in Crimea, Ukraine, and Georgia.

What happens now is that in the next 10 years, unless something is done—under the current Presidential plan of spending for the next 10 years, not only are we going to add \$9.5 trillion to our debt, but we are going to reduce military spending to 2.6 percent of GDP. That is another roughly \$100 billion of cuts if the economy stays the same.

I just don't understand this brinksmanship that we see. This is not the first time; I think this is the fifth time we are going to have voted on funding our military. The reaction of the other side befuddles me from the standpoint that they tell us they want to support our men and women. They give us these heart-wrenching stories, and yet they won't stand up and even let us get the bill on the floor.

To be brief, it is time for the Democrats to stop the obstructionism and the political showmanship. This is about the security of our country, about the lives of our men and women abroad. They deserve better than this. We can do better than this.

The world is more dangerous than at any time in my lifetime. It is time that we stand up and tell the world what we are committed to, and that is to provide for our own national defense. That means funding this Defense appropriations bill.

Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of my time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. 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. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask to be recognized, and if the Senator from New Hampshire, Mrs. SHAHEEN, comes to the floor, I would yield to her until the time that I already have reserved.

Mr. President, we are about to vote on a couple of motions to instruct the conferees on the Defense authorization bill and the Defense appropriations bill to move forward on it. All of these

votes are very vital to the future of this Nation in a time of turmoil, a time of the greatest number of refugees since the end of World War II, threats throughout the world, and attacks on the United States of America.

Very appropriately, Senator SULLIVAN's motion to instruct the conferees is for us to account for and authorize funding for the recent actions taken by the President of the United States and the Secretary of Defense—a force of 8,400 sailors, airmen, and marines within Afghanistan; the President's budget for the European Reassurance Initiative, which is additional funds sufficient to enable the air, ground, and amphibious force structure to fulfill the commitment that Secretary Carter made at the Shangri-La dialogue within the Pacific theater. The list goes on and on.

Every time we turn around, we hear of another increase in our military presence in Iraq and Afghanistan and buildups, for example, in Eastern Europe, which was recently decided at a meeting of the NATO nations. Yet, with all of these promises and commitments, we see no request for additional funding to take care of these new missions and new requirements for our military activities. So I think Senator SULLIVAN's motion is entirely in order.

Does it really make sense to have these very large, when you put them all together—billions of dollars of increased requirements, announce them with great fanfare, and yet never come over—not yet once—to request additional funding for them? That is obviously, at best, disingenuous.

So I urge my colleagues' support for the motion by Senator SULLIVAN to disagree and insist that the final conference include authorization for the commitments that are described in the motion.

The second, of course, is an issue that has been plaguing us or has been the subject of great discussion and debate and heartache, frankly, on the floor of the Senate, and that is the issue of the Afghan special immigrant visas.

It is heartbreaking that Members of the Senate, for their own parochial interests—just a couple, actually—would block this legislation, which calls for us to be able to bring to the United States these people who literally risked their lives on our behalf and whose lives are in danger as we speak.

My colleagues don't have to take my word for it. Ambassador Ryan Crocker—probably the most distinguished diplomat I know—speaking of these interpreters, recently wrote: “This is truly a matter of life and death.”

I repeat what Ambassador Crocker said:

This is a matter of life and death. I know hundreds of people who have been threatened because of their affiliation with the United States. Some have been killed. Today, many are in hiding, praying that the United States keeps its word. We can and must do better.

General Petraeus said:

Many of our Afghan allies have not only been mission-essential—serving as the eyes and ears of our own troops and often saving American lives—they have risked their own and their families' lives in the line of duty.

General Petraeus has stated eloquently that these individuals put their lives on the line to save the lives of American service men and women, and yet we have Members of this body who block a proposal to allow them to come to the United States of America. Remarkable. Remarkable.

General Nicholson, our commander in Afghanistan, said:

It is my firm belief that abandoning this program would significantly undermine our credibility and the 15 years of tremendous sacrifice by thousands of Afghans on behalf of Americans and Coalition partners.

I say to my colleagues, this is pretty straightforward. This is a pretty straightforward issue. That we even have to do this is testimony to the nature of the way we seem to be doing business around here, and that is that people would literally put the lives of our allies in danger for their own parochial interests, for their own amendment, which they are demanding not only be taken up but passed, which has nothing to do with the lives of these great individuals who saved the lives of Americans and whose lives are in danger, according to our military leaders and our most respected diplomats.

Retired GEN Stanley McChrystal, an individual known to all of us, said: "Protecting these allies is as much a matter of American national morality as it is American national security."

In the view of General McChrystal, one of our great, outstanding leaders, we are talking about our moral obligation.

I hope and pray we will get a unanimous vote on this motion to instruct.

Finally, we are going to again have a vote to move forward on the Defense appropriations bill. I understand that it probably will fail, and that is an unbelievable act. It is unbelievable, given the situation in the world today and the threats we face—in the words of the Director of National Intelligence, in the words of the Director of the CIA, there will be further attacks on the United States of America—that my friends on the other side of the aisle are refusing to take up the legislation that pays for the defense of this Nation. It is beyond belief.

I don't like provisions in the Defense appropriations bill, and I have made it very clear, and I want us to be able to take it up and amend to make it better. Maybe some of us—maybe a majority of us have priorities that were not in the Defense appropriations bill. Suppose we don't like the fact that they appropriated \$1 billion for an icebreaker that has nothing to do with defense or that they have this long laundry list of porkbarrel projects that they call scientific research projects. I want to debate and amend those.

A lot has happened since the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee unani-

mously passed out the Defense appropriations bill. A lot has happened, and all 100 of us should have the ability to amend and make it better. Instead, we are being put down on the path to a continuing resolution and an omnibus bill on which there will not be debate and amendments to make it better for the men and women who are serving.

The President just announced that we are going to have 8,400 men and women who are serving this country in Afghanistan instead of 5,400-some. Shouldn't we take that in consideration in our deliberations on the appropriations bill? Shouldn't we accommodate for that, as is our role and obligation as the Congress of the United States? We have the power of the purse.

We are now looking at a situation where we have a world that is literally on fire. That is apparent every day we pick up the newspaper or turn on the television. Instead of having a robust debate and discussion and amendments as to how we can best defend this Nation, we are going to again have my friends on the other side of the aisle stop us from taking it up. Why? The Appropriations Committee reported it out unanimously.

The Democratic leader said that he didn't want another "McCain amendment" that would increase funding for defense without a commensurate increase in funding for nondefense. I have said to my colleagues: If you are talking about the CIA, if you are talking about homeland security, if you are talking about other agencies of government to protect this Nation, then fine.

Mr. President, I note the presence of the Senator from New Hampshire on the floor. I ask unanimous consent that she be granted 5 minutes and that I be granted 2 minutes after that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator from Arizona has expired.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I am thankful to my colleague from Arizona.

I am pleased to be here on the floor because in a few minutes I am going to be offering a motion to instruct the conferees for the NDAA to extend the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Program and to authorize additional visas for deserving applicants.

For those of us who remember the debates we had on the floor during the NDAA, we will remember that we had come to an agreement. The opponents of this program had agreed with JOHN MCCAIN and me that we needed to keep the promises we had made to so many of those Afghan interpreters who made a life-and-death difference in helping our service men and women on the ground in Afghanistan as they fought the Taliban.

This is a program that Senator MCCAIN and I have worked on for several years. We have been successful in previous years in getting this exten-

sion and keeping the word—the promise we made to those Afghan interpreters and keeping the word of the American Government that we are going to help those who helped us. Yet we go into this NDAA conference without an extension of the Special Immigrant Visa Program.

Without congressional action, the Afghan SIV Program will largely sunset around December. It will leave thousands of Afghans who stood alongside our men and women and other government personnel at severe risk.

I talked to a woman this morning who told me the story of an Afghan interpreter who just arrived in the United States last night. She said he had been waiting 3 years to get his special immigrant visa. During that time, he was so worried about his family that he slept in another room at night when he went to bed so that if the Taliban found them, they would kill only him and not the rest of his family.

This country owes a great debt to the Afghans who provided essential assistance to our mission in Afghanistan, the thousands of brave men and women who, like this man who just arrived in the United States, put themselves and their families at risk to help our soldiers and our diplomats accomplish their mission and return home safely. Congress must not turn its back on these individuals. That outcome would be a moral failing, and it would also carry significant national security strategic costs going forward.

So I would hope that when we have this vote on the motion to instruct that my colleagues will agree with Senator MCCAIN and I that this is something we need to do. We need to make sure one of the things that comes out of that NDAA conference is an agreement to extend those special visas to those individuals who were still in the pipeline.

Thank you, Mr. President. I thank my colleague from Arizona for all of his work to try to get this done, and I hope that by working together, we can make this happen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I want to thank the Senator from New Hampshire for her leadership, her dedication, and tenacity in making sure this issue is not dispensed with until it is finished and we fulfill our commitment to the men and women who are serving, who have literally sacrificed their lives as interpreters for the good welfare and the safety of our members in the uniformed military, whom the Senator from New Hampshire and I hear from all the time on behalf of their interpreters. We hear from them all the time, saying: Don't abandon them. They saved my life.

Can't we understand how important this moral obligation is?

Finally, I hope my colleagues will not vote to block consideration of the Defense appropriations bill. We need to debate, we need to improve, and we

need to provide for the needs of the military and this Nation's security in an ever-changing environment.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to disagree in the House amendment, agree to the request by the House for a conference, and to appoint conferees with respect to S. 2943, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 90, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 130 Leg.]

YEAS—90

Alexander	Enzi	Murphy
Ayotte	Ernst	Murray
Baldwin	Feinstein	Nelson
Barrasso	Fischer	Perdue
Bennet	Flake	Peters
Blumenthal	Gardner	Portman
Blunt	Graham	Reed
Booker	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hatch	Roberts
Boxer	Heinrich	Rounds
Brown	Heitkamp	Rubio
Burr	Heller	Sasse
Cantwell	Hirono	Schatz
Capito	Hoeven	Schumer
Cardin	Inhofe	Scott
Carper	Isakson	Sessions
Casey	Johnson	Shaheen
Cassidy	Kaine	Shelby
Coats	King	Stabenow
Cochran	Kirk	Sullivan
Collins	Lankford	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Thune
Corker	McCain	Tillis
Cornyn	McCaskill	Toomey
Cotton	McConnell	Udall
Crapo	Menendez	Vitter
Cruz	Merkley	Warner
Daines	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Donnelly	Moran	Wicker
Durbin	Murkowski	Wyden

NAYS—7

Gillibrand	Paul	Warren
Leahy	Reid	
Markey	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—3

Franken	Klobuchar	Lee
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 90, the nays are 7.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Under the previous order, the compound motion to go to conference is agreed to.

The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the next two votes be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I have a motion to instruct which is at the desk, and I ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New Hampshire [Mrs. SHAHEEN] moves that the managers on the part of the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on S. 2943 (the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017) be instructed to insist that the final conference report include language to extend the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa program through December 31, 2017 and authorize additional visas to ensure visas are available for applicants who meet the criteria under the program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise in support of my motion to instruct the Senate National Defense Authorization Act conferees to extend the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Program and authorize additional visas for deserving applicants. The SIV Program allows Afghans who supported the United States mission in Afghanistan to seek refuge in this country because they face grave threats as a result of helping our men and women on the ground there.

I just wish to point out that when we had the debate on the NDAA, we had an agreement on what an amendment to extend the Special Immigrant Visa Program would look like. That amendment would have allowed for 2,500 additional special immigrant visas to cover those people still in the pipeline who are facing threats because of helping American soldiers. And while we had agreement from the majority of the body, unfortunately, because of an unrelated issue, we were not able to get this amendment passed.

This is an opportunity for us to come back at this and do what is right, do what our commanders and our diplomats say we need to do for the national security interests of America. So I hope all of my colleagues will join me in supporting this motion to instruct.

I would like to now ask my partner in this effort, Senator MCCAIN, if he would say a few words.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 2 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, as soon as Senator MCCAIN speaks in favor of this, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 2 minutes in opposition.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes in opposition remaining, and the Senator from Arizona is asking for 2 additional minutes.

Mr. SESSIONS. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Arizona has 25 seconds remaining.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, please don't take my word for it. How about general David Petraeus. Many of our Afghan allies have not only been mission-essential, serving as the eyes and ears of our own troops and often saving American lives, they have risked their own and their families' lives in the line of duty.

This program falls far short and has serious national security implications. Ambassador Ryan Crocker: This is truly a matter of life and death. I know hundreds of people who have been threatened because of their affiliation with the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask for an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. SESSIONS. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Who yields time in opposition?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I worked with Senator MCCAIN and Senator SHAHEEN, and we agreed to 2,500 new refugees who would enter under this program, and we had some language in there that tightened it up. This legislation allows an unlimited number to come here under the program and does not have the language that tightens up the program and brings it to an end eventually. That is the difference of opinion at this point.

I am disappointed this was brought up, and last night we first learned about it.

I would just note, there are 7,000 visas authorized over the last few years; only 3,500 have been used and 3,500 remain. The House extends the program. It does not add any additional number. They considered it at length. Chairman GOODLATTE opposes this.

Also, the motion fails to acknowledge the need to pay for and prioritize the visas. These visas will cost, according to CBO, \$281 million over 10 years. Just 2,500 would cost that much so this has an unlimited number.

I think the right thing for us to do is to not agree to this motion to instruct.

I would be glad to work with Senator MCCAIN and Senator SHAHEEN and support the agreement we reached last time that got blocked by other Members for other reasons, but I oppose this because it is unlimited, it is unpaid for, and I don't believe it is necessary based on the facts on the ground.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Point of order, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, may I ask for a clarification? The vote we are having is not on a particular piece of legislation; is that correct? This is on a motion to instruct the conferees so it does not deal with the particular piece of legislation Senator SESSIONS has suggested.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct. The vote before the Senate is on the Senator's motion to instruct the managers on this matter.

All time has expired.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent; the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 84, nays 12, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 131 Leg.]

YEAS—84

Alexander	Enzi	Murkowski
Ayotte	Ernst	Murphy
Baldwin	Feinstein	Murray
Barrasso	Fischer	Nelson
Bennet	Flake	Perdue
Blumenthal	Gardner	Peters
Blunt	Gillibrand	Portman
Booker	Graham	Reed
Boozman	Hatch	Reid
Boxer	Heinrich	Roberts
Brown	Heitkamp	Rounds
Burr	Hirono	Sanders
Cantwell	Hoeven	Sasse
Capito	Isakson	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson	Schumer
Carper	Kaine	Shaheen
Casey	King	Stabenow
Cassidy	Kirk	Sullivan
Coats	Leahy	Tester
Cochran	Manchin	Thune
Collins	Markey	Tillis
Coons	McCain	Toomey
Corker	McCaskill	Udall
Cornyn	McConnell	Warner
Cotton	Menendez	Warren
Daines	Merkley	Whitehouse
Donnelly	Mikulski	Wicker
Durbin	Moran	Wyden

NAYS—12

Cruz	Lankford	Scott
Grassley	Paul	Sessions
Heller	Risch	Shelby
Inhofe	Rubio	Vitter

NOT VOTING—4

Crapo	Klobuchar
Franken	Lee

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I have a motion to instruct at the desk and ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Alaska [Mr. SULLIVAN] moves that the managers on the part of the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on S. 2943 (the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017) be instructed to insist that the final conference report include authorization for the following commitments recently made by the President and Secretary of Defense:

Maintaining a force of approximately 8,400 soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines within Afghanistan into 2017 as announced by President Obama on July 6th to continue to train and advise Afghan forces and to conduct counterterrorism operations;

The President's budget request for the European Reassurance Initiative to establish increased rotational presence in Europe, provide ample United States Armed Forces end strength and combat capability to meet all regional contingency plans, increase operational responsiveness of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and to fulfill President Obama's commitment to move forward with "the most significant reinforcement of collective defense anytime during the Cold War";

Sufficient naval, air, ground and amphibious force structure and weapons systems to fulfil the commitment made by Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter at the Shangri-La Dialogue that within the Asia-Pacific theater "the United States will remain the most powerful military and main underwriter of security in the region for decades to come"; Sufficient levels of military forces, munitions, logistics support, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance assets, and other enabling support, and the deployment of sufficient operational capabilities to meet President Obama's commitment to go after ISIL aggressively until it's removed from Syria and Iraq and finally destroyed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I rise to support my motion to instruct in relation to the NDAA of 2017. In the past few weeks the President and the Secretary of Defense have made additional military commitments across the globe for our men and women in uniform, and we have read about these. These include 560 troops to Iraq to help reinforce the fight against ISIS, a decision to keep 8,400 members of the military in Afghanistan fighting against terrorism, 1,000 troops in Poland and a headquarters to beef up NATO's eastern flank, as well as two carrier strike groups in the South China Sea to protect freedom of the seas.

I believe many of us are supportive of these commitments. However, in order to support these pledges, we need to make sure we fully authorize these commitments so our brave men and women in uniform have everything they need to fight and win these battles.

When our service men and women train here and deploy abroad, they

need to know that the Congress of the United States and the Senate of the United States stand with them. Supporting this motion to instruct lets them know we have their back, as we should.

I yield to my colleague from Rhode Island, Senator REED.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, we worked with Senator SULLIVAN on this instruction. It is consistent, as the Senator has indicated, with the President's proposal with respect to force structure in Afghanistan and with our European Reassurance Initiative, where we are increasing our presence and cooperating more closely with our European allies. It is consistent with our position in the Pacific as articulated by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter. It is consistent with proposals that have been made in other areas, and it does not expand the authority of the President. It simply recognizes what he has asked not just of our Congress but more importantly of the men and women who wear the uniform in the United States. This instruction will help us in our deliberations, and I would thank the Senator and urge its passage.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, as you can see, there is bipartisan support for this measure. I ask that all my colleagues support it now.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, the motion offered by Senator SULLIVAN to instruct conferees to the Defense authorization bill includes several important proposals.

First, it urges conferees to fully fund the cost of overseas military operations, including our commitment to Afghanistan. This stands in sharp contrast to the irresponsible House proposal to cut off war funding on April 30, 2017. This provision is reckless and short-sighted and is the subject of a veto threat by the administration.

Second, it endorses full funding of the European Reassurance Initiative. This is the administration's most important response to Russia's aggression in the Ukraine and threatening behavior towards our European friends and allies.

The President's budget request quadrupled spending on this effort, from \$789 million this year to \$3.4 billion next year. In light of the recent NATO conference, full support for the European Reassurance Initiative is critical to demonstrating the American commitment for the security of the people of Poland, the Baltics, and many other countries who are worried about Vladimir Putin.

Third, the motion endorses statements made by Secretary of Defense

Ash Carter that highlight the U.S. commitment to maintaining the strongest, most capable Armed Forces in the world.

The commitment calls to mind the testimony of Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Paul Selva, earlier this year, before the Senate Armed Services Committee: “I will take umbrage with the notion that our military has been gutted. So I stand here today a person that’s worn this uniform for 35 years. At no time in my career have I been more confident than this in saying we have the most powerful military on the face of the planet.”

Finally, the motion endorses all the necessary military tools to meet the President’s commitment to destroy ISIL in Iraq and Syria. So far, our campaign against ISIL has resulted in their loss of nearly half their territory in Iraq, and nearly a quarter in Syria.

The Director of the Central Intelligence Agency warned that ISIL remains very dangerous and is likely plotting or inspiring more terrorist attacks. We must keep up the pressure on ISIL, using not only our military but all of our intelligence, law enforcement, diplomatic, and financial enforcement tools that our Nation has.

I have concerns that our government can do more to stop the ISIL threat that is not limited to our military campaign. For example, after the tragic shooting in Orlando, the American people heard stories of the labor-intensive effort that is required for the FBI to track the many tips relating to domestic terrorism sent in by the public.

Defeating ISIL will require the use of every tool at the disposal of our government, not just our Armed Forces. We should ask ourselves: if ISIL is squeezed out of Syria and Iraq, where are they going to go? And are we doing enough intelligence, law enforcement, and diplomatic work to catch ISIL terrorists as they cross international borders?

It is my hope that Congress will be able to negotiate an omnibus appropriations bill this fall, and we should reject one-sided solutions that only address one part of the ISIL threat. I hope we can address that issue in the same bipartisan way that I expect the Senate to support these motions made by the Senator from Alaska.

ZIKA VIRUS FUNDING BILL

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to talk about the urgent need to provide full funding for our response to the Zika virus. Nearly 5 months ago, on February 22, President Obama submitted a request to Congress for \$1.9 billion in emergency supplemental funding to address the growing Zika epidemic. The request included \$1.509 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services, HHS; \$335 million for the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID; \$41 million for the Department of State; and support for several other Federal agencies.

The administration’s plan—which has the full weight of the scientific community behind it—represents a coordinated and well-funded, whole-of-government approach to combating the virus with a focus on prevention, treatment, and research.

But instead of listening to the experts, Republicans choose instead to abide by a partisan agenda: offering a Zika conference report that underfunded critical Federal, State, and global response efforts by more than \$800 million, and included poisonous policy riders and pay-fors that gratuitously attacked the Affordable Care Act, the safety of our Nation’s drinking water, and women’s reproductive rights. The Senate rejected the Zika conference report and rightfully so.

The Republican leadership particularly in the House seem to be forgetting that the Zika virus is a mosquito-borne disease that has a real, devastating impacts on women and their babies. There have been over 1,100 travel-associated Zika cases reported in the continental United States, including 31 in my home State of Maryland and 2,474 locally acquired cases across the U.S. territories. Because of Zika, babies are being born in the United States and throughout Central and South America with horrible birth defects. To date, more than 600 pregnant women in the continental U.S. and the territories are being monitored following laboratory evidence of possible Zika virus infection, according to the U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry.

Without congressional action to fund our response to the Zika epidemic adequately, the efforts to better understand and combat this disease will be derailed. According to Dr. Tony Fauci, the Nation’s leading infectious disease expert and Director of the National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases, NIAID, “The vaccine effort will be blunted if not aborted if we don’t have the funding.”

Dr. Fauci also emphasized that other vital HHS and NIH programs will suffer if the agency is forced to focus funding primarily on vaccine development. The NIAID has already diverted funds from malaria and tuberculosis research to fund Zika efforts. It is unconscionable that the Republican leadership is forcing our public health officials to make these kinds of decisions.

State and local health departments also bear the brunt of the consequences of not fully funding our Zika response efforts. Our Nation’s health departments are on the front lines of combating this disease, working on a grassroots level to expand and enhance prevention efforts, including mosquito surveillance and control; promoting culturally conscious education campaigns to raise public awareness; and equipping our health care workforce with the most medically accurate guidelines to help patients make informed decisions about their health care.

Zika will not simply disappear without adequate funding. Congress must

pass an adequate and clean Zika funding bill. Leaving Washington, DC, for the summer recess without sufficiently funding Zika response efforts is irresponsible and does an incredible disservice to the American people.

Neglecting to pass an appropriate Zika response bill is a failure to expectant mothers who have growing concerns about the lasting impact a mosquito bite this summer could have on the health of their unborn children; it is a failure to the ambitious U.S. athletes who are considering sidelining their dreams of Olympic glory over the fear of contracting the virus; and it is a failure to the millions of Americans who entrust us to do everything in our power to safeguard their health and well-being. Although we should not incite panic about Zika, the seriousness of this problem is too great to be ignored. If we expect to make adequate progress on combating this virus this year—and if we want to protect the health and welfare of all Americans—Congress must pass a clean, well-resourced Zika funding bill without delay.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 85, nays 12, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 132 Leg.]

YEAS—85

Alexander	Enzi	Nelson
Ayotte	Ernst	Perdue
Baldwin	Feinstein	Peters
Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Bennet	Flake	Reed
Blumenthal	Gardner	Reid
Blunt	Graham	Risch
Booker	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Hatch	Rounds
Brown	Heinrich	Rubio
Burr	Heitkamp	Sasse
Cantwell	Hirono	Schumer
Capito	Hoeven	Scott
Cardin	Inhofe	Sessions
Carper	Isakson	Shaheen
Casey	Johnson	Shelby
Cassidy	Kaine	Stabenow
Coats	King	Sullivan
Cochran	Kirk	Tester
Collins	Lankford	Thune
Coons	Manchin	Tillis
Corker	McCain	Toomey
Cornyn	McCaskill	Udall
Cotton	McConnell	Vitter
Crapo	Menendez	Warner
Cruz	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Donnelly	Murkowski	
Durbin	Murray	

NAYS—12

Boxer	Markey	Sanders
Gillibrand	Merkley	Schatz
Heller	Murphy	Warren
Leahy	Paul	Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Franken	Klobuchar	Lee
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The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 5293.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 5293.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. For the information of all Senators, the next and final vote will be cloture on the MILCON-VA-Zika proposal at 2 o'clock. That will be it for the week.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 524, H.R. 5293, an act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Tom Cotton, Shelley Moore Capito, Mike Crapo, Thad Cochran, Jerry Moran, Richard C. Shelby, John Hoeven, Lamar Alexander, Orrin G. Hatch, Daniel Coats, Pat Roberts, John Barrasso, Bill Cassidy, John Thune, John Boozman, John Cornyn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 5293, an act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close, upon consideration?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 133 Leg.]

YEAS—55

Alexander	Ernst	Paul
Ayotte	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Flake	Portman
Blunt	Gardner	Risch
Boozman	Graham	Roberts
Burr	Grassley	Rounds
Capito	Hatch	Rubio
Cassidy	Heller	Sasse
Coats	Hoeven	Scott
Cochran	Inhofe	Sessions
Collins	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johnson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Kirk	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tillis
Crapo	Manchin	Toomey
Cruz	McCain	Vitter
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Donnelly	Moran	
Enzi	Murkowski	

NAYS—42

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Boxer	King	Schatz
Brown	Leahy	Schumer
Cantwell	Markey	Shaheen
Cardin	McCaskill	Stabenow
Carper	Menendez	Tester
Casey	Merkley	Udall
Cooms	Mikulski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Nelson	Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Franken	Klobuchar	Lee
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 55, the nays are 42.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, upon reconsideration, the motion is rejected.

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I was about to leave the Chamber, but in light of the results of the last vote, I am compelled—I am compelled to speak out more in disappointment than in rage. Although I think a lot of men and women who are serving in the military who are dependent on what we do for their safety and their livelihood, for pure—pure—partisan and political reasons, we will not be moving forward to consider a bill to train and equip the men and women who are in the military, to give them their pay and benefits and defend this Nation.

How? How do you do that in good conscience? I understand we are in an election year. I understand all that, but how in the world do you refuse to take up legislation that its only purpose is to defend this Nation, which is under assault?

I just came back from spending the Fourth of July with the troops in Afghanistan. They depend on us. They depend on us. We are their elected representatives, and what have we done now? We refuse to move forward with legislation that allows them to defend themselves, and they are in harm's way.

All I can say is that when we see polling data that shows the American

people have a very low opinion of us—I see numbers, 13, 14 percent of the American people approve of Congress—this is validation. This is validation of their absolute disgust with our failure to do the work to protect the Nation. Isn't that our first priority? That has always been mine, to secure the Nation, to make sure we protect ourselves as much as possible. We rely on these young men and women. We rely on them to defend the Nation, and now we will not even act to train, arm, equip, pay, and care for them. That is disgraceful. That is disgraceful.

Yes, this side of the aisle has been guilty of partisan behavior, and I will plead guilty to all that. But how in the world—how in the world do you go back to your home State, as we will tonight and tomorrow, and meet these young men and women who are serving, as is one of the great privileges we have, and look them in the eye—look them in the eye and tell them I voted against legislation which was to arm and train and equip you and protect this Nation. I voted against it because the Democratic leader said, well, he didn't want an amendment that would increase spending on defense—on defense.

Without getting too redundant, I hope maybe we might take the next couple of months before we come back and examine what we are doing and why we can't agree at least on debating and amending and making better—which we can do because that is what the Senate is all about. Can't we do that for them? Do we have to be so divided that we will not even move forward with perhaps one of the most important pieces of legislation this body and this Nation is responsible for?

I hope my friends on the other side of the aisle will examine their conscience.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mrs. FISCHER pertaining to the introduction of S. 3213 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mrs. FISCHER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ZIKA VIRUS FUNDING AND OBAMACARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, 2 weeks ago, I came to the floor to talk about the threat that is posed to all of us by the Zika virus. Since then, more than 3,500 Americans have contracted this terrible virus. Unborn babies are being put at risk for a serious medical condition called microcephaly, which is a condition—I will tell you this as a doctor—where babies are born with smaller heads and brain development problems, and adults can be paralyzed and even killed by this virus.

Here we are getting ready to vote in the next 15 minutes on an appropriations bill that is supposed to do something about this virus—the Zika virus.

How are the Democrats responding? They are peddling myths and playing politics. That is what they do. They already blocked this legislation once, and now they are ready to block it again. It is unbelievable.

This legislation includes \$1.1 billion to fight Zika. The head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it would fund all of the agency's immediate needs in the fight against Zika at this point.

When the Senate voted on this in May, every Democrat in the body voted to support the exact same amount of money. Two months ago, Democrats thought this was the right answer, but now they are willing to let the American people suffer because of this virus. What happened? What changed in the last 2 months that would have the Democrats who voted for it now vote against it? Nothing has changed except that the situation has actually gotten worse and more dangerous for people. I think the Democrats were never serious about wanting to do anything at all. Democrats decided they would rather have a political issue than have a real solution. Democrats aren't going to be able to dodge responsibility this time. We are running out of time to prevent an epidemic.

Last week, Senator BILL NELSON from Florida said: We are at the 11th hour and 59th minute. That is exactly right. Why, then, is Senator NELSON and his Democratic colleagues playing a game of chicken with the American people?

There was a poll that came out last week by the Kaiser Family Foundation

which found that 76 percent of Americans support the Zika legislation that we have on the floor. Democrats ought to start listening to the American people. They should stop playing political games and take the money they asked for and that the Centers for Disease Control says is the right amount of money to fight the spread of this threat to the health of the American people.

This is not the first time that Democrats in this body have put their own political talking points ahead of the American people in terms of their health care. At the beginning of this year, Republicans passed legislation to repeal the President's health care law. Why? So we can replace it with health care reforms that work for the American people. We want to act, and we acted to protect the American people from a health care law that has harmed so many people across the country and that so many people feel has absolutely punished them. President Obama vetoed the legislation, and Democrats in Congress resisted every attempt to undo years of damage caused by ObamaCare.

Republicans offer solutions. Democrats just want to try to preserve the President's legacy, no matter what. Democrats are totally ignoring all of the chaos and all of the harm that is being caused by this health care law.

Taxpayers paid to set up 23 different insurance co-ops across the country, and 16 of them have now folded. Only a third of the original co-ops are still operating. Billions of dollars in taxpayer money have been wasted, never to be paid back, and more than 850,000 Americans have lost their insurance that they got through the co-ops because the insurance co-ops can't afford to stay in business under the health care law.

The co-op in Illinois collapsed just this week. That is the President's home State. Last week, it was co-ops in Oregon and Connecticut. Yet the Senator from Connecticut comes to the floor and says the health care law is working. It is not, even in his home State. There are more than 20,000 people in Oregon who have been left scrambling to find new coverage starting July 31—just a couple of weeks from now.

It is not just people who belong to the co-ops who are losing their insurance. The largest insurance company in Minnesota says they are going to stop selling insurance in their State at the end of the year. BlueCross BlueShield of Minnesota covers over 100,000 people. All of them are going to lose their insurance and have to find coverage elsewhere.

President Obama said: If you like your insurance, you can keep your insurance. Not for the people in Oregon, not for the people in Illinois, not for the people in Connecticut, and not for the people in Minnesota.

Americans who don't lose their insurance are going to have to get ready to

pay a lot more for it next year, even if they can keep what they have. They sure don't like it. More companies have been saying how much they plan to charge next year, and the numbers are staggering. In Montana, BlueCross BlueShield just announced on Friday that it is raising ObamaCare rates 62 percent. Who can afford that? It is incredible. And the President has the nerve to call it the Affordable Care Act and to tell Members of the Senate that they should forcefully defend and be proud of it. There is very little to be proud of. It is happening all across the country because of this law. Premiums are skyrocketing. So are deductibles. So are copays. Every other cost that people pay out of pocket for their health care is going up—all of this since ObamaCare went into effect, and it is because of ObamaCare.

I read a story the other day that said that before ObamaCare, for every doctor, there were six administrators out there trying to administer health care in the country in terms of doing the paperwork, pushing the paper around. Now it is nine for every one doctor. So we have gone from six to nine administrators for every doctor practicing medicine.

People across the country are rejecting what President Obama is continuing to claim is working well.

Just before the Fourth of July, we learned that 1.6 million people who signed up this year for ObamaCare have already quit by the end of March. They signed up at the beginning of the year and quit by the end of March—1.6 million.

The Congressional Budget Office said that they were expecting by this time over 21 million people to have signed up for ObamaCare. Well, with more and more dropouts, we are at only half that number, and it is just more evidence that the President's health care law is cratering, it is collapsing.

There is so much bad news out of this ObamaCare information that we continue to have that the White House feels they can't hide it any longer, so they dribble it out over the Fourth of July weekend—right before the Fourth of July, when people are paying attention to other things—because they don't want the world to know how badly this is actually working. Yet, what the President says is "forcefully defend and be proud."

The President is ignoring the fact that 1.6 million people who already listened to him this year and signed up have already gotten out of it because it is a bad deal. He totally ignores the 850,000 Americans who have lost their insurance because of his failed co-ops. Instead, he actually wrote an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association patting himself on the back, congratulating himself—it came out this Monday—on how great he thinks this health care law is. It is delusional for him to think that. It is ignoring the reality of what the American people see. He is living in a cocoon

of self-delusion. That is what we are seeing across the country—the President ignoring the facts.

In the article, the President actually says that the health care law should be expanded—expanded, he said—by offering government-run health insurance plans. If President Obama and the Democrats in Congress think America needs more government control, more control over people's health care, they are really out of touch with reality.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I wonder if the Senator will yield for a question.

Mr. BARRASSO. Most certainly.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, the Senator makes an excellent point about the tremendous cost increases that American taxpayers and American medical consumers have experienced, as well as the number of insurers that are just leaving the scheme altogether. So Americans really are not any better off.

I appreciate the Senator coming to the floor time and again with the facts about this issue, but in particular I want to go back to a point the Senator made with regard to what we are going to vote on in a few minutes. Do I understand from my friend from Wyoming that we will soon be voting on—at the top of the hour, we will be voting on a proposal that funds the Zika disease at an amount that the CDC says is necessary and at an amount that our friends on the Democratic side have argued for and voted for time and again? Do I understand that to be correct?

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, the distinguished Senator from Mississippi understands correctly, because at this point, the request, and what the Democrats voted for earlier this year—\$1.1 billion, which is what the Centers for Disease Control says is the correct amount—the Democrats are now seeming to vote against it. They voted against it earlier this week.

Mr. WICKER. This very bill we will be voting on funds Zika at that amount?

Mr. BARRASSO. At the amount requested by the Centers for Disease Control.

Mr. WICKER. I was disappointed to hear the Senator say that he believes the Democrats will come in and once again block this funding this afternoon. If that happens, when will be the next opportunity that this body will have to vote on this vital funding?

Mr. BARRASSO. I think we are talking about at least 7 weeks from now. If the Democrats don't change their tune, there is a lot of damage that is going to occur over that period of time.

Now is the time to kill the mosquitoes because remember, as my colleague from Mississippi knows, it is the mosquitoes that carry the virus—the virus that, if a person is bitten and gets that virus, can cause all of these very consequential health impacts to

babies who are yet to be born, as well as to adults.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I would just observe—and there may be others who wish to speak in the very short time we have—I would just observe that we have a bill before us that gives the administration what they have been requesting, that gives our friends on the Democratic side of the aisle what they have asked for time and time again, saying that the Senate should act. We have an opportunity to do that today and to leave here with a victory for health care and a victory for the American people. Yet, if we do not act—and it appears we will not because Democrats will come in and object and not get the 60 votes—then it is going to be a month and a half to 2 months before we can provide the funding for this vital disease-prevention legislation.

So I would just say that I would call on my colleagues, here at the eleventh hour, to reconsider their position. Let's go out for the conventions on a positive note and give the American people the funding the experts in our government tell us is necessary.

I yield the floor to the Senator from Wyoming and thank him for yielding the time.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I appreciate so much the comments by the Senator from Mississippi, who is absolutely right. There are two components of this. One is to kill the mosquitoes now. The other thing we need to move ahead with is coming up with a vaccine that can help prevent this virus from taking hold if someone happens to be bitten by a mosquito. So we need to do two things: We need the research and we need to kill the mosquitoes now.

It was astonishing that one of the Democrats was opposed to the fact that what we wanted to do was make it easier to spray the mosquitoes because we have to spray near water. Well, that is where mosquitoes tend to multiply; it is where they breed; it is where the Zika virus is born. But they were so concerned that there would be a regulation that for a short period of time would be laid aside. We would still have to use only the things that have been properly approved for spraying near water. It seems as though the Democrats were willing to line up by the mosquitoes instead of the people being bitten by the mosquitoes. This is how ludicrous this has gotten.

The money requested by the CDC—the right amount of money—is here on the floor to be voted on today. We have to get the research going. We have to spray and kill the mosquitoes. But, once again, it seems the Democrats would rather have a political reason than a solution.

I would recommend that the Democrats, coming out of their lunch meeting they are having now with their nominee for President, Hillary Clinton—they are not here in the floor defending themselves; they are out there

visiting with Hillary Clinton. They need to come to the floor of the Senate and vote to approve this legislation today, to get the money to the Centers for Disease Control, to do the research, to kill the mosquitoes.

Republicans are here offering solutions. Democrats are offering gridlock and the same old political games.

Thank you, Madam President.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BARRASSO. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2577.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2577.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2577, an act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, John Thune, Orrin G. Hatch, Jerry Moran, Shelley Moore Capito, Johnny Isakson, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, John Hoeven, Joni Ernst, Steve Daines, Chuck Grassley, James E. Risch, John Boozman, Cory Gardner, John Barrasso.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2577, an act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close, upon reconsideration?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 134 Leg.]

YEAS—52

Alexander	Enzi	Paul
Ayotte	Ernst	Perdue
Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blunt	Flake	Risch
Boozman	Gardner	Roberts
Burr	Graham	Rounds
Capito	Grassley	Rubio
Cassidy	Hatch	Sasse
Coats	Heller	Scott
Cochran	Hoeben	Sessions
Collins	Inhofe	Shelby
Corker	Isakson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Johnson	Thune
Cotton	Kirk	Toomey
Crapo	McCain	Vitter
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	
Donnelly	Murkowski	

NAYS—44

Baldwin	Heitkamp	Peters
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Kaine	Reid
Booker	King	Sanders
Boxer	Lankford	Schatz
Brown	Leahy	Schumer
Cantwell	Manchin	Shaheen
Cardin	Markey	Stabenow
Carper	McCaskey	Tester
Casey	Menendez	Udall
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Mikulski	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden
Heinrich	Nelson	

NOT VOTING—4

Franken	Lee	Tillis
Klobuchar		

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 44.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, upon consideration, the motion is rejected.

The majority leader.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the conference report to accompany H.R. 2577.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Conference report to accompany H.R. 2577, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented

under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2577, an act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, John Thune, Orrin G. Hatch, Jerry Moran, Shelley Moore Capito, Johnny Isakson, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, John Hoeven, Joni Ernst, Steve Daines, Chuck Grassley, James E. Risch, John Boozman, Cory Gardner, John Barrasso.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President I move to proceed to Calendar No. 524, H.R. 5293.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 524, H.R. 5293, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 524, H.R. 5293, an act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, James Lankford, John Thune, Orrin G. Hatch, Jerry Moran, Shelley Moore Capito, Johnny Isakson, Mike Crapo, John Boozman, Thom Tillis, John Hoeven, Joni Ernst, David Perdue, Dan Sullivan, Steve Daines, Chuck Grassley, James E. Risch.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Wisconsin.

WATERFRONT COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION AND RESILIENCY ACT OF 2015

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 508, S. 1935.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1935) to require the Secretary of Commerce to undertake certain activities to support waterfront community revitalization and resiliency.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Waterfront Community Revitalization and Resiliency Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) many communities in the United States were developed along waterfronts;

(2) water proximity and access is a recognized economic driver;

(3) water shortages faced by parts of the United States underscore the need to manage water sustainably and restore water quality;

(4) interest in waterfront revitalization and development has grown, while the circumstances driving waterfront development have changed;

(5) waterfront communities face challenges to revitalizing and leveraging water resources, such as outdated development patterns, deteriorated water infrastructure, industrial contamination of soil and sediment, and lack of public access to the waterfront, which are often compounded by overarching economic distress in the community;

(6) public investment in waterfront community development and infrastructure should reflect changing ecosystem conditions and extreme weather projections to ensure strategic, resilient investments;

(7) individual communities have unique priorities, concerns, and opportunities related to waterfront restoration and community revitalization; and

(8) the Secretary of Commerce has unique expertise in Great Lakes and ocean coastal resiliency and economic development.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(2) RESILIENT WATERFRONT COMMUNITY.—The term “resilient waterfront community” means a unit of local government or Indian tribe that is—

(A)(i) bound in part by—

(I) the Great Lakes; or

(II) the ocean; or

(ii) bordered or traversed by a riverfront or an inland lake;

(B) self-nominated as a resilient waterfront community; and

(C) designated by the Secretary as a resilient waterfront community on the basis of the development by the community of an eligible resilient waterfront community plan, with eligibility determined by the Secretary after considering the requirements of subsections (b) and (c) of section 4.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

SEC. 4. RESILIENT WATERFRONT COMMUNITIES DESIGNATION.

(a) DESIGNATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall designate resilient waterfront communities based on the extent to which a community meets the criteria described in subsection (b).

(2) **COLLABORATION.**—For inland lake and riverfront communities, in making the designation described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall work with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the heads of other Federal agencies, as the Secretary determines to be necessary.

(b) **RESILIENT WATERFRONT COMMUNITY PLAN.**—A resilient waterfront community plan is a community-driven vision and plan that is developed—

(1) voluntarily at the discretion of the community—

(A) to respond to local needs; or

(B) to take advantage of new water-oriented opportunities;

(2) with the leadership of the relevant governmental entity or Indian tribe with the active participation of—

(A) community residents;

(B) utilities; and

(C) interested business and nongovernmental stakeholders;

(3) as a new document or by amending or compiling community planning documents, as necessary, at the discretion of the Secretary;

(4) in consideration of all applicable State and Federal coastal zone management planning requirements;

(5) to address economic competitive strengths; and

(6) to complement and incorporate the objectives and recommendations of applicable regional economic plans.

(c) **COMPONENTS OF A RESILIENT WATERFRONT COMMUNITY PLAN.**—A resilient waterfront community plan shall—

(1) consider all, or a portion of, the waterfront area and adjacent land and water to which the waterfront is connected ecologically, economically, or through local governmental or tribal boundaries;

(2) describe a vision and plan for the community to develop as a vital and resilient waterfront community, integrating consideration of—

(A) the economic opportunities resulting from water proximity and access, including—

(i) water-dependent industries;

(ii) water-oriented commerce; and

(iii) recreation and tourism;

(B) the community relationship to the water, including—

(i) quality of life;

(ii) public health;

(iii) community heritage; and

(iv) public access, particularly in areas in which publicly funded ecosystem restoration is underway;

(C) ecosystem challenges and projections, including unresolved and emerging impacts to the health and safety of the waterfront and projections for extreme weather and water conditions;

(D) infrastructure needs and opportunities, to facilitate strategic and sustainable capital investments in—

(i) docks, piers, and harbor facilities;

(ii) protection against storm surges, waves, and flooding;

(iii) stormwater, sanitary sewer, and drinking water systems, including green infrastructure and opportunities to control nonpoint source runoff; and

(iv) other community facilities and private development; and

(E) such other factors as are determined by the Secretary to align with metrics or indicators for resiliency, considering environmental and economic changes.

(d) **DURATION.**—After the designation of a community as a resilient waterfront community under subsection (a), a resilient waterfront community plan developed in accordance with subsections (b) and (c) may be—

(1) effective for the 10-year period beginning on the date on which the Secretary approves the resilient waterfront community plan; and

(2) updated by the resilient waterfront community and submitted to the Secretary for the

approval of the Secretary before the expiration of the 10-year period.

SEC. 5. RESILIENT WATERFRONT COMMUNITIES NETWORK.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall develop and maintain a resilient waterfront communities network to facilitate the sharing of best practices among waterfront communities.

(b) **PUBLIC RECOGNITION.**—In consultation with designated resilient waterfront communities, the Secretary shall provide formal public recognition of the designated resilient waterfront communities to promote tourism, investment, or other benefits.

SEC. 6. WATERFRONT COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION ACTIVITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—To support a community in leveraging other sources of public and private investment, the Secretary may use existing authority to support—

(1) the development of a resilient waterfront community plan, including planning and feasibility analysis; and

(2) the implementation of strategic components of a resilient waterfront community plan after the resilient waterfront community plan has been approved by the Secretary.

(b) **NON-FEDERAL PARTNERS.**—

(1) **LEAD NON-FEDERAL PARTNERS.**—A unit of local government or an Indian tribe shall be eligible to be considered as a lead non-Federal partner if the unit of local government or Indian tribe is—

(A) bound in part by—

(i) the Great Lakes; or

(ii) the ocean; or

(B) bordered or traversed by a riverfront or an inland lake.

(2) **NON-FEDERAL IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS.**—Subject to subsection (d)(3), a lead non-Federal partner may contract with an eligible non-Federal implementation partner for implementation activities described in subsection (d)(2).

(c) **PLANNING ACTIVITIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Technical assistance may be provided for the development of a resilient waterfront community plan.

(2) **ELIGIBLE PLANNING ACTIVITIES.**—In developing a resilient waterfront community plan, a resilient waterfront community may—

(A) conduct community visioning and outreach;

(B) identify challenges and opportunities;

(C) develop strategies and solutions;

(D) prepare plan materials, including text, maps, design, and preliminary engineering;

(E) collaborate across local agencies and work with regional, State, and Federal agencies to identify, understand, and develop responses to changing ecosystem and economic circumstances; and

(F) conduct other planning activities that the Secretary considers necessary for the development of a resilient waterfront community plan that responds to revitalization and resiliency issues confronted by the resilient waterfront community.

(d) **IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Implementation assistance may be provided—

(A) to initiate implementation of a resilient waterfront community plan and facilitate high-quality development, including leveraging local and private sector investment; and

(B) to address strategic community priorities that are identified in the resilient waterfront community plan.

(2) **ASSISTANCE.**—Assistance may be provided to advance implementation activities, such as—

(A) site preparation;

(B) environmental review;

(C) engineering and design;

(D) acquiring easements or land for uses such as green infrastructure, public amenities, or assembling development sites;

(E) updates to zoning codes;

(F) construction of—

(i) public waterfront or boating amenities; and

(ii) public spaces;

(G) infrastructure upgrades to improve coastal resiliency;

(H) economic and community development marketing and outreach; and

(I) other activities at the discretion of the Secretary.

(3) **IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—To assist in the completion of implementation activities, a lead non-Federal partner may contract or otherwise collaborate with a non-Federal implementation partner, including—

(i) a nonprofit organization;

(ii) a public utility;

(iii) a private entity;

(iv) an institution of higher education;

(v) a State government; or

(vi) a regional organization.

(B) **LEAD NON-FEDERAL PARTNER RESPONSIBILITY.**—The lead non-Federal partner shall ensure that assistance and resources received by the lead non-Federal partner to advance the resilient waterfront community plan of the lead non-Federal partner and for related activities are used for the purposes of, and in a manner consistent with, any initiative advanced by the Secretary for the purpose of promoting waterfront community revitalization and resiliency.

(e) **USE OF NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A resilient waterfront community receiving assistance under this section shall provide non-Federal funds toward completion of planning or implementation activities.

(2) **NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES.**—Non-Federal funds may be provided by—

(A) 1 or more units of local or tribal government;

(B) a State government;

(C) a nonprofit organization;

(D) a private entity;

(E) a foundation;

(F) a public utility; or

(G) a regional organization.

SEC. 7. INTERAGENCY AWARENESS.

At regular intervals, the Secretary shall provide a list of resilient waterfront communities to the applicable States and the heads of national and regional offices of interested Federal agencies, including at a minimum—

(1) the Secretary of Transportation;

(2) the Secretary of Agriculture;

(3) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(4) the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(5) the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works

(6) the Secretary of the Interior; and

(7) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

SEC. 8. NO NEW REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

Nothing in this Act may be construed as establishing new authority for any Federal agency.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

Ms. BALDWIN. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 1935), as amended, was passed.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2127

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to honor the life of Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick by passing a bill to strengthen whistleblower protections.

Last year the Center for Investigative Reporting published an article that revealed allegations of opioid overprescription, whistleblower retaliation, and a culture of fear at the Tomah VA Medical Center in Tomah, WI. It also detailed the tragic story of Jason Simcakoski, who passed away at the Tomah VA in 2014 from mixed drug toxicity. Jason had over one dozen different drugs in his system when he died.

Jason's life is honored by a bipartisan bill introduced by my colleague from Wisconsin that I am pleased to cosponsor: the Jason Simcakoski Memorial Opioid Safety Act. The bill aims to improve VA opioid prescribing guidelines and ensure greater coordination and oversight for patient treatments.

When I learned of the problems at the Tomah VA, I immediately directed my Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee staff to investigate. They reviewed thousands of pages of documents and conducted 22 interviews. We held two hearings in Tomah and two in Washington, DC, to examine what happened at the facility and hear from whistleblowers across the country. On May 31 of this year, we released a 359-page report detailing the findings of our bipartisan investigation. The unfortunate conclusion of our investigation is that with proper disclosure, the tragedies of the Tomah VA could have been prevented.

One of the individuals who blew the whistle on these problems was a psychologist at the Tomah VA named Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick. His portrait stands beside me.

Chris came to Tomah in 2008. He treated veterans, the finest among us, for PTSD, substance abuse, and chronic pain. It didn't take long for him to realize that something was not right. Chris told his family and the union that he thought doctors were overprescribing, overmedicating patients.

The chief of staff of the facility was a doctor who had been known as the Candy Man as far back as 2004 because of the amount of opioids he prescribed for veterans. When the Candy Man

found out that Chris was questioning his prescription practices, Chris was warned to stop. But rather than address Chris's concerns, the VA fired him. Tragically, late on the day that he was terminated, Chris committed suicide.

Chris's managers later said they felt coerced into firing him. Yet no one ever investigated Chris's suicide, and the agency was never held accountable.

Inspectors general are supposed to be the government's watchdogs. Instead of promptly investigating, preparing, and making a report of its investigation public, the VA Office of Inspector General took almost 3 years to prepare a short, extremely flawed report, administratively closed the investigation, and then buried the report.

Then last year, under pressure from news reports and my committee's investigation, the office issued an unsolicited white paper that defended its flawed work and attacked Chris. It even accused him of being a drug dealer. They were retaliating against a dead man.

Sean Kirkpatrick, Chris's brother, summed up the office's actions best. He told our committee: "The haphazard attempt to discredit and slander Chris was absolutely outrageous to us when our brother was merely questioning opioid abuse and concerns that the veterans were not being cared for properly."

Sean Kirkpatrick offered invaluable testimony to our committee and asked us to make commonsense changes to help ensure that what happened to Chris will not happen to someone else.

To address these recommendations and the problems our investigation uncovered, I introduced the Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act. Among other things, the bill requires agencies to discipline supervisors who retaliate against whistleblowers and mandates training so employees know their rights and supervisors know how to handle complaints. The bill requires the VA to inform its employees about mental health services available to them and review their protocols to address threats from patients. The bill also prohibits VA employees from accessing the private medical records of coworkers when they blow the whistle as a means to retaliate against them.

I ask the full Senate to honor Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick and protect veterans and future whistleblowers by passing these commonsense reforms. It would be particularly special for the Senate to pass the bill today as, sadly, it is the 7-year anniversary of Chris's passing.

This bill received unanimous support of Democrats and Republicans on my committee in December by a vote of 16 to 0. It has the support of every Republican in the Senate. Yet, unfortunately, one or more Democrat Members have been blocking it. I haven't been told who they are, so I have come to the floor to ask that if a Senator objects to this bill, he or she explain why.

Protecting whistleblowers and putting our veterans first shouldn't be a partisan issue. I know it sure hasn't been one for me.

In fact, just yesterday the Jason Simcakoski Memorial Opioid Safety Act was approved as part of CARA. I was pleased to cosponsor the bill that the junior Senator from my State, a Democrat, introduced. I am not aware of any Republican Member who tried to block its inclusion in CARA, and I was pleased to do whatever I could in the Senate to ensure its passage because it is just good policy and it is just good for our veterans.

I ask my colleagues to give this bill the same respect by judging it based on policy, not politics. Put our veterans first.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 499, S. 2127. I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn, the Johnson substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the title amendment be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. We, as the Republicans, want to work to improve veterans' benefits. It is so very important. They give a lot, and we don't take good enough care of them.

I understand Senator JOHNSON's legislation. I appreciate that, but there are a number of bipartisan bills to help our veterans that Democrats want to pass as well. We have our bills; he has his bill. So I hope we can work together in the next little bit to come up with a package of bills that would give the Republicans a few of the things they want and give us some of the things we want because the issue before us, as valid as it could be and might be, addresses a very narrow issue the Senator from Wisconsin seeks to address, but a variety of matters are left undone.

I hope we will be in a position to pass the legislation by the Senator from Wisconsin, but we are not there yet. So I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, might I ask the majority leader: Are you objecting for yourself or on behalf of others? Further, is there a reason for the objection?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is not in order to ask questions of someone who does not have the floor.

The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it is extremely disappointing that the minority leader has objected to a commonsense piece of legislation that was passed—again, let me repeat—unanimously out of my committee. Not one

Democratic member of our committee objected to this. It was a good piece of legislation. It is so important.

I am shocked, coming from the private sector, how much retaliation actually occurs within government even though we passed numerous bills protecting whistleblowers. The fact is, had these tragedies been known, had the whistleblowers been protected, had the Office of Inspector General made its investigation reports public, tragedies would have been prevented.

One of the veterans who died at the Tomah VA was Thomas Baer. I was talking to his daughter a week or so after he passed from neglect, as he suffered a couple strokes waiting to be cared for.

She said: Senator, had I only known of the problems at the Tomah VA, I never would have taken my father there. He would be alive today.

All I am asking for is a commonsense bill that again was passed unanimously by my committee. Unfortunately, it is being objected to and will not pass today.

At a moment in time in our history when there are so many divisions in this country, this is one thing we all agree on in this body, to honor the promises to the finest among us, our veterans. This bill honors those promises. This bill would protect the whistleblowers who have the courage to come forward and report problems at the VA health care centers. This bill would help protect veterans in the future.

One of the things I am most proud of as chairman of the committee is I have worked in a very bipartisan fashion. I have forged agreements. I have looked for areas of agreement that unify us. By using that approach, a businessperson's approach, we have reported out of my committee 83 pieces of legislation—this is one of them—and 26 of those have been signed into law, again by finding areas of agreement that unify us as a committee, as a Senate, as a Congress, and as a Nation. This should have been one of those bills.

I sincerely hope we can overcome whatever objection, which was not stated on the floor, and pass this very important piece of whistleblower protection as soon as possible.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

ZIKA VIRUS FUNDING

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I share the regret of my colleague from Wisconsin that our friends across the aisle—the dysfunction that characterized the last Congress, when they were in charge, is unfortunately creeping into this Congress as well, in spite of roughly a year and a half of relatively good productivity by the Congress on a bipartisan basis. To come in and make objections against commonsense ways to protect whistleblowers determined to try to make sure we keep our commitments to our veterans is just—well, it is shameful, and I share the disappointment of my colleagues.

Moments ago, our Democratic colleagues failed another test, a test of whether they care more about American families or about special interest groups. This is what I am talking about.

The test our Democratic colleagues failed is one to see whether they care more about averting these sort of devastating birth defects caused by the Zika virus or whether they care more about the special interest groups that raise money off of legislation designed to solve problems and prevent public health disasters like this. Unfortunately, they made the wrong choice. They failed the test.

This is what the Zika virus can do. This is an example of microcephaly or, basically, shrunken skull. We can imagine what this does to the baby's brain, what this means in terms of trying to provide medical care by a loving mother and father, trying to make sure this baby, no matter how long it may live, has at least as comfortable a life as it can have until it passes away. Of course, the prognosis—the life expectancy of a baby with microcephaly is not good, and that is an understatement.

We know Zika is a preventable disease. We know, with mosquito eradication, we know with proper precautions people can take—not leaving standing water in places where mosquitoes can propagate—if we do our job by providing the adequate funding needed to avert this public health crisis, someday—and, hopefully, not too long, not too far away—we can actually develop a vaccine so pregnant women and women of child-bearing age don't have to worry or live in fear that this might happen to their baby.

Just yesterday, the Harris County Public Health Office in Houston—as the Presiding Officer knows—confirmed that the first baby in Texas was born with Zika-related microcephaly. This tragedy depicted by this photograph is real and it is at our doorstep. This particular case involves a pregnant woman who had traveled to South America, where we know Zika virus is present, but all of our public health officials are telling us it is slowly working its way up from Central and South America and it is literally at our doorstep.

This is not a time to refuse to do our duty and simply coast through the rest of the summer. We are talking about lifelong irreversible problems that take lives and affect families for years to come. Experts across the country that I have visited with, in Galveston at the National Lab, at the Texas Medical Center in Houston, say we need to act, and we need to act now.

They are not alone. It was just last May when our Democratic colleagues asked us to act and to act with urgency, but today they turned down the very money they argued for last May, when they decided to gamble with the lives of children like this instead of protecting them. As I said, they ig-

nored their own calls to get this done quickly, and they have refused to pass urgent measures that would protect our country from a public health crisis.

As I said when I started, this was a test today to see whether our Democratic colleagues cared more about babies like this or special interest groups, and they failed the test. It is as simple as that.

I want to make sure everyone understands how we got here.

Two months ago, a bipartisan agreement was introduced to handle the Zika threat. That was 2 months ago. Senator BLUNT of Missouri and Senator MURRAY of Washington worked together, as we are supposed to do, to come up with a bipartisan compromise, in this case, to an appropriations bill. About a week after it was introduced in this Chamber, it passed overwhelmingly. Not one Democrat opposed the \$1.1 billion appropriations amendment that was attached to the VA-Military Construction appropriations bill. Not one Democrat opposed it because, until recently, they seemed to agree with us that this is a major public health crisis in the making—particularly, as I said, because we expect the mosquito-borne virus to hit the mainland in places like Texas, Florida, Louisiana, and other warm parts of the country. We expect it to hit the U.S. mainland in full force as temperatures continue to rise this summer.

The legislation we passed in the Senate was reconciled, as it is supposed to be, in a conference committee with different legislation passed by the House. That bicameral, bipartisan compromise is what we considered earlier today—after Senate Democrats decided to block it for the first time a few weeks ago. It seems that after they called upon us to pass the bill in May, they have decided in the interim it is not as urgent as they once said.

For months now, Senate Democrats have talked about the need to get this legislation passed to prepare us for the Zika virus, and it was the Democratic leader who said this on May 23, 2016—May 23. It is now July 14. He said:

Instead of gambling with the health and safety of millions of Americans, Republicans should give our nation the money it needs to fight Zika, and they should do it now. Not next month, not in the fall—now.

This is the Democratic leader. When we delivered on his request that he made on May 23, he voted no—even though he and every Senate Democrat voted yes to pass the Senate bill at exactly the same level that this conference report provided.

Then, in an amazing reversal, Senator MURRAY of Washington—who, as I said a moment ago, quite responsibly worked with Senator BLUNT from Missouri to come up with the original amendment funding this Zika prevention effort at \$1.1 billion—she then in effect voted against her own amendment. Back in May, she was singing a different tune. She said:

Families and communities are expecting us to act. Parents are wondering if their babies will be born safe and healthy. In Congress, we should do everything we can to tackle this virus without any further delay.

That was on May 26, 2016. But today, again, this same Senator who said these words on May 26 voted no.

We have to ask ourselves why. What do they consider is more important than stopping this? What could it possibly be? What could be more important, more demanding? What could be a higher priority for these Senate colleagues than voting to fund the research on prevention that would stop this from happening to one more baby in America?

Unfortunately, the hypocrisy we have heard doesn't end there.

On June 20, the senior Senator from New York, the next Democratic leader in waiting, said: "Every day we wait, every day is increasing the risk that we will have problems with Zika." That is not exactly a profound statement, but it is a true statement.

My point is that people are pretty disgusted with what they see here in Washington these days, where rather than trying to find consensus, people really find ways to say no and to block important legislation like this. This is the very definition of dysfunction.

I have to tell you that I am beyond disappointed at the hypocrisy demonstrated by all of our Senate Democrats voting for the funding at the \$1.1 billion level, only now for the second time to vote against this rescue appropriation to prevent this sort of thing from happening. It really is beyond frustrating. It is disgusting.

If there is anything good, any good news in all of this, I would say that, fortunately, months ago the Obama administration finally agreed with Senate Republicans to set aside more than half a billion dollars of unspent funds for the Ebola crisis. There was roughly \$589 million that was set aside and reprogrammed for that purpose, but that is no excuse for failing to act comprehensively as our Senate Democrats have urged us to do time and again.

This is nothing to play around with. This is not a trivial matter. This is a life-altering, life-shortening, devastating birth defect that is preventable. What could be more important? It is our job to send this bill to the President's desk. As long as our Senate Democratic colleagues refuse to do so, as long as they refuse to defend the health and well-being of Americans across this country, as long as they refuse another chance to protect our children from devastating birth defects, there is not much we can do about it.

There is something the American people can do about it, and they can call and they can write to their Senator. They can say: I don't care what your objection is; it better be pretty darned important if you are going to block funding that would prevent this from happening to my baby or to ba-

bies in my family or in my neighborhood.

Health experts across our country need resources to study the virus, to contain the virus, to keep it from spreading, and, hopefully, eventually to develop a vaccine. For our Democratic colleagues to block this legislation again months after saying it was so urgent amounts to tying the hands of our doctors, our local public health officials, and researchers from city to city. Clearly, the responsibility rests with them.

When we see locally transmitted cases of the Zika virus in the United States caused by mosquitoes carrying that virus, the responsibility will be with them for refusing to act in light of the clarion call by public health officials that this is a real public health emergency.

To take this bill hostage is not only hypocritical; it is profoundly irresponsible. I don't know how some of our colleagues can sleep at night knowing that they are putting these babies and their families at risk. There is simply no excuse for blocking this critical funding. As I said, there is a test that was taken today, and our Democratic colleagues once again failed the test.

CONDEMNING THE ATTACK IN DALLAS

Mr. President, on a separate and equally somber note, today Senator CRUZ and I submitted a simple resolution that would condemn the horrific attack in Dallas of last week that took the lives of five police officers and wounded several more. It is a small way but an important way that we can honor those whom we have lost, express sympathy to their families, and take a stand against violence and hatred targeting police officers. I hope this Chamber adopts this resolution without delay.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TOOMEY). The Senator from Delaware.

TRIBUTE TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER TIANA GARRETT AND INGRID HOPE

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, for more than a year now, I have come again and again to the Senate floor to highlight some of the remarkable work that is being done by the men and women who work at the Department of Homeland Security for our country. The Department of Homeland Security—created in the wake of the attack on 9/11—today has over 200,000 employees. It was created by combining some 22 Federal agencies, including the Coast Guard, FEMA, and others.

The Department's employees are stationed all over this country. In fact, you can find them all over the world. From keeping drugs from crossing our borders to screening passengers at airports, to safeguarding critical cyber security networks, the men and women at the Department of Homeland Security take on some of the most diverse and challenging jobs of any Federal employee.

Last month I spoke on this floor to highlight the work being done by a

small group of folks who work at the Department of Homeland Security and an agency called the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office. With just 125 employees, this office tracks and detects radiological and nuclear materials. They protect Americans from some of the most dangerous materials that are known to humankind.

Another office within the Department of Homeland Security, charged with tracking dangerous yet nearly invisible threats, is the Office of Health Affairs. The Office of Health Affairs leads the Department of Homeland Security's efforts to track and to coordinate the response to potential biological threats from infectious diseases.

In 2014, with the outbreak of Ebola in Africa, the Office of Health Affairs was charged with tracking this deadly virus and studying the potential threat it posed to Americans here at home. This office has had to disseminate that threat information to other Federal agencies and to State and local health officials, as well, as part of our efforts to coordinate and be ready if this disease does make it to our shores.

The Office of Health Affairs also worked with Customs and Border Protection to establish a screening protocol for passengers arriving here from Ebola-impacted countries. The Office of Health Affairs continues to monitor and to keep us prepared for any remaining threats we might face from Ebola. This summer, as we heard, we have yet another challenge on their plates. As we discussed in this Chamber as recently as a few minutes ago, over the past couple of months, the Zika virus has spread explosively throughout Central and South America and the Caribbean. Here at home, we have confirmed more than 1,100 travel-related cases, including more than 320 affected women.

Given the potentially devastating effects that Zika can have, Americans are understandably concerned about how best to protect themselves, their families, or their future families from this previously little-known virus. That is why we are lucky to have the hard-working men and women at the Office of Health Affairs of the Department of Homeland Security. As we speak, the Office of Health Affairs, through its National Biosurveillance Integration Center, is coordinating closely with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control to track the spread of the disease of the Zika virus.

They are also communicating prevention and detection information to help officials across our country and our partners overseas. Already, the office has produced several Zika-related safety advisories on everything from Zika transmission and prevention to mosquito abatement, to Zika screening procedures. As we reach the height of mosquito season here in the United States, the Office of Health Affairs is actively coordinating response activities with agencies across the Federal

Government and with State and local partners.

Two exceptional employees within the Department and the Office of Health Affairs who are helping to coordinate the Department's Zika preparedness and response activities are LCDR Tiana Garrett and Ingrid Hope. Here she is to my left, LCDR Tiana Garrett.

I am an old Navy guy. People look at this, and in the Navy or in the Coast Guard, this indicates that you are a lieutenant commander, and this indicates what her rank is. She is a lieutenant commander. We call lieutenant commanders in the Navy "commanders," just to give them a compliment. So if I call her Commander Garrett, then I am not messing up. It is the way we do things in the Navy and the way we do things here.

Commander Garrett is an officer in the U.S. Public Health Service—not in the Navy, not in the Coast Guard. She serves in a vitally important agency called the U.S. Public Health Service. As a biosurveillance operations analyst, Commander Garrett is responsible for tracking and providing updates to Federal, State, and local partners on the spread of the Zika virus and other disease outbreaks. Through her work at the National Biosurveillance Integration Center, Commander Garrett provides regular updates to thousands of government officials, representing the Office of Health Affairs in inter-agency calls and presentations and ensuring that others know that the Department of Homeland Security and its Office of Health Affairs is there to help.

Commander Garrett also uses her master's degree in epidemiology and her Ph.D. in cell biology to help develop health advisories to inform the Department of Homeland Security's workforce about Zika virus exposure and how to prevent it. Commander Garrett's colleagues describe her as a true public servant who has dedicated her career and much of her life to ensuring the health and well-being of others.

Another Office of Health Affairs employee within the Department of Homeland Security who is focusing on the Zika virus is this lady right here, and her name is Ingrid Hope. Ingrid is the Acting Deputy Division Director for the Workforce Health and Medical Support Division. Miss Hope is charged with making sure that the Department of Homeland Security's policies protect its own employees from the threats posed by the Zika virus and other infectious diseases. Given the potential for frontline DHS employees to come into contact with this virus and other viruses, it is vitally important that they have the guidance they need to reduce their own risk of exposure.

Just like families in Delaware and around the country, Department of Homeland Security employees have been hearing about the Zika virus on the news. We have heard about it here on the floor today. While you and I can

make changes to our schedule or change our travel plans to limit our exposure, the Department of Homeland Security employees at our ports of entry and along our boarders cannot do that. Their jobs put them in harm's way to protect us against any number of threats to our homeland. The Zika virus is no different.

Miss Hope does invaluable work by informing the Department of Homeland Security employees on how to limit their exposure while on the job. She also makes sure that the workforce knows how to detect the virus and how to keep themselves and their families as safe as possible. Without her important work, our officers on the frontlines will be far less prepared to deal with the potential public health crisis.

As we continue to debate supplemental funding to combat the Zika virus, we cannot forget the hard work needed to turn this funding into results. It is my hope that Congress can reach a bipartisan agreement to provide the Zika funding that is needed. Once that funding is approved, we must all keep in mind that the Zika virus will not simply disappear. Countless man-hours and woman-hours are put into collecting information, analyzing this relatively unknown virus, developing tests, treatments, vaccines, and protecting the most vulnerable among us.

So we say thank you. We say thank you to the men and today especially to the women at the Office of Health Affairs of the Department of Homeland Security. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to think about how much work is done each day—every day—in an effort to make it safer for the rest of us on this planet and also to enable us to stay several steps ahead of this virus and eventually to overcome it.

We cannot let our differences here hinder the work of our dedicated public servants. So to Miss Hope, to Lieutenant Commander Garrett, and to all the men and women at the Office of Health Affairs and the Department of Homeland Security, we say thank you today and every day. Thank you for your selfless and tireless efforts to keep Americans safe and secure from the many threats we face. While you continue to track and keep us informed about these threats and viruses and other organisms that would otherwise go unnoticed, know that your efforts behind-the-scenes have not gone unnoticed. We have noticed. They know they have not gone unappreciated. We appreciate them. I am not the only Senator who appreciates your hard work. I know I speak for all of my colleagues as well. Thank you and God bless you.

ZIKA VIRUS FUNDING

Mr. President, I wish to take a moment before I say a word about the battle against ISIS in other parts of the world. I want to talk about Zika funding for a moment. The administration has asked for \$1.9 billion to combat this disease. I think there has been a

disagreement as to whether it should be that amount, \$1.9 billion or something less.

We held a roundtable several weeks ago on the Zika virus, and we had folks with medical backgrounds and other backgrounds to talk about some of the smartest things we can do to reduce the threat and spread of the Zika virus in this country. I believe there was unanimous agreement that one of the best things we can do is improve access to contraception.

They told us about the cost of providing care for an infant who is born with this dreaded disease. We have heard a lot of stories about babies being born with distorted heads and damaged brains. One witness told us the cost of raising that child from birth to the end of their life can be as high as \$10 million per child. If we, through our efforts, can reduce a total of 190 births, the likelihood that some child will be born with this terrible deformity and condition—190 times \$10 million is \$1.9 billion. I think we can avoid even more pregnancies if we find a way to narrow and eliminate our differences and provide the funding that has been requested by the President.

Again, what I think Democrats object to, in terms of paying for the funding for the Zika virus, is this pay-for actually reduces funding for family planning and reduces funding for contraception. What we heard at our roundtable a week or two ago was that is where we should be putting our emphasis and our dollars. I wanted to leave that thought, if I may.

ISIS

Mr. President, I came to the floor a week or two ago, and I brought this map with me. This map is familiar to some and not familiar to others. This is Iraq down here. Iran is over here to the east, and to the west of Iraq, we find Syria. This is Damascus, and Turkey is up here. This is a place I have been to a number of times, and I suspect the Presiding Officer has been here as well. This is the capital of Iraq, which is Baghdad.

What the ISIS folks started about 2 years ago was a very effective drive from this part of the world and heading for Baghdad. They almost reached Baghdad. They were within 20 miles or so of Baghdad. Anbar Province, which is represented here, has three cities, or three towns, that we consider the Sunni Triangle—Fallujah, Ramadi, and a place up here called Tikrit. If you actually connect the lines between those cities, it is called the Sunni Triangle. There are a lot of Sunnis who live in that area.

The area almost due north of Baghdad is one of the largest cities in Iraq called Mosul, and today it is held by ISIS forces. This salmon-colored area here represents areas that are still held by ISIS forces. The area in green, generally to the northeast and southeast, are the areas that have been liberated from ISIS.

When this started 2 years ago, the amount of land controlled by ISIS used

to be the salmon and green colors combined. The amount of land they now control has been reduced by half. In addition to that, the number of people from around the world signing up to fight on behalf of ISIS 2 years ago was 2,000 per month. Last month, there were 200. Two years ago, when ISIS was on a roll and going through Syria and Iraq, they had 10 fighters per month from the United States sign up to fight with ISIS. Last month, there was one.

During the battle for this part of the country against the ISIS forces that were trying to establish their caliphate—their own country—we not only reduced the land mass they held in Iraq by half, we significantly reduced the land they controlled in Syria. We have seen this coalition that we have been a part of actually begin to gel into an effective fighting force.

I spent 5 years of my life as a naval flight officer in the Vietnam war in Southeast Asia, and 18 years after that, as a P-3 aircraft mission commander flying a lot of missions out of the naval air station in an area that is just north of Philadelphia called Willow Grove. I flew on missions all over the world tracking Soviet nuclear submarines. I have some experience with being involved in missions where we had naval aviation assets, fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, working and communicating with naval ships, naval submarines, and not just in the United States but with our NATO allies. I will tell you, it is hard to do. We have different procedures and sometimes different languages, and it is difficult to coordinate our operations and our exercises. I think when you put together a coalition with 60 different nations and try to figure out how to work and coordinate what everybody is doing—some are providing air power, which is what we do. We have two carrier groups in this part of the world. One is over here in the Mediterranean Sea and the other is down here in the Persian Gulf. We are launching F-18s and F-16s off of those carriers, and we are still using B-52s, which are literally older than the P-3s I used to fly on in the Navy all those years ago. They are operating out of a variety of bases, including Qatar and other places, to do high-precision bombing against the ISIS forces. We are using drones and A-10 warthogs. We have a lot of air and naval assets, as well as others in the Air Force, and we have helicopters as well.

It is not just us. While we are doing work in the air and providing ground support from the air, we are also providing a lot of help with intelligence, and our allies in this part of the world are helping us with that.

We also have boots on the ground. A lot of the boots on the ground in this part of world for this fight are from Iraq, and there are boots on the ground who frankly fled from ISIS 2 years ago and are now taking the fight to ISIS today.

When Ramadi was retaken, the Iraqi troops led the way. When Fallujah was

taken a couple of weeks ago, the Iraqi troops led the way. When Tikrit was taken several months ago, the Iraqi troops led the way. They were supported by us and other elements of the coalition, but they led the way.

This is Mosul, which is a big city, and right below it is a smaller city called Qayyarah. I think a bunch of our military folks call it Key West. Qayyarah has been taken by the Iraqi forces. It is in the salmon-colored area, but is now in the hands of the Iraqi troops and government. There is a large airbase in Qayyarah. It is about 40 miles from Mosul, and this large airbase will be used to help stage the effort coming up this summer and fall to retake Mosul.

While this is going on in this part of the country, this part of the country al-Raqqa, which is really the spiritual capital, if you will, of the ISIS caliphate. Over here we have a combination of U.S. alliance forces coming in from the northeast and approaching al-Raqqa, and we have Syrian troops, supported by Russian air, going this way, and that is the movement that is underway today.

When people ask how things are going with this fight, I think most people really don't know about the progress being made. A lot of people may think it is like it was 2 years ago, but it is not. A great deal has been accomplished, and during that period of time, not only have we recaptured a lot of land, a lot of folks around the world, including from this country, who wanted to sign up for ISIS, those numbers have dropped dramatically.

In the last 2 years, we also know the FBI has arrested close to 100 individuals here on ISIS-related charges. In cyber space, over 125,000 pro-ISIS Twitter handles have been taken offline, and today for every pro-ISIS Twitter handle, there are 6 anti-ISIS handles that are tweeting to criticize ISIS's actions and challenge its twisted ideology, which has nothing to do with the Muslim faith.

I think even ISIS may now suspect it is losing. Two days ago, a Washington Post story had the headline: "ISIS quietly preparing for the loss of the 'caliphate.'" This area right here. "ISIS quietly preparing for the loss of the 'caliphate.'" The article detailed how ISIS is trying to compensate for losing this battle and territory that was so important 2 years ago. They are trying to compensate for that in ways that undermine their claims of legitimacy and relevance.

As ISIS suffers these defeats, it is important to show them, and us, that despite the horrific terrorist attacks in Orlando, Brussels, Istanbul, and other places, ISIS is losing this war. When ISIS loses on the battlefield, it can no longer credibly use its winner's message that they are a winning team to attract recruits or inspire attacks.

I will close with this. I am a baseball fan. I was in Cleveland less than a month ago for the funeral of one of our

former colleagues, former Gov. George Voinovich. Former Senator and Governor, George Voinovich passed away. He was a wonderful human being.

I went to the funeral. It was literally at the time of the NBA finals, and everywhere I went in Cleveland, I saw people wearing Cleveland Cavalier hats and shirts or paraphernalia to make it clear they were supporting the team.

The Cleveland Indians have a pretty good baseball team. The all-star game was this week, and a number of the Indians played in the game. If you go to Ohio these days, you will see a lot of people wearing Cleveland Indian hats, shirts, and so forth. When a team is winning, it is kind of natural for people to want to be a part of a winning team.

When 2,000 people a month were coming from all over the world to fight with ISIS, ISIS was perceived as a winning team. Two years ago, when 10 Americans per month were going to this part of the world to fight with ISIS, they were depicted and seen as a winning team. They are not a winning team. They are becoming a losing team. To the extent we can continue to make sure they are seen as a losing team and can successfully convey that, at least in this country, I think we reduce the likelihood of people in this country being radicalized, particularly young people, and convinced to do horrific things against Americans in this Nation.

I will close by quoting a fellow named Peter Bergen, who is one of the most knowledgeable people on terrorism and threats we face with these kinds of attacks. I was reminded of his testimony from last month in the Senate. He said that since 9/11, every American who has died in a terrorist attack in this country has died at the hands of an American citizen or someone who is here legally. I will say that again. Peter Bergen reminded us that since 9/11, everybody in this country who has died at the hands of a terrorist attack has been killed by an American citizen or by someone who is here legally in this country. People in this country will be far less inclined to do those kinds of horrific things if we can successfully convey what is going on on this battlefield on the other side of the world. That is why I come to this floor every week or two to remind us of that truth.

With that, I yield the floor to my friend Senator SCOTT, who is yearning to speak, and I wish him well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

OUR AMERICAN FAMILY

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I rise today for the final time this week. This has been a very emotional time for all of us and I believe a pivotal time for our Nation. For me personally, I believe our brightest days are still ahead of us, and I will tell you why.

I am a kid who grew up in a single-parent household, mired in poverty, disillusioned at times, who nearly flunked out of high school, whose life

was changed by a strong, powerful African-American mama and an optimistic, visionary Chick-fil-A operator named John Moniz, who happened to be White.

I think it is incredibly important that while our problems appear in black and white, our solutions are black and white.

My life is a testament to God's love—a mother's love and the love of my mentor. I don't deny that our Nation must have tough, painful conversations—family conversations—but I have experienced what is possible when the family talks, and it is really a cool thing. My life story is a story of second chances—a love story of sorts. It is a dark hour in race relations for America, but I bring you hope—real hope.

In the Deep South, with a provocative racial history, the voters of the First Congressional District of South Carolina—a heavily White district that is the home of the birthplace of the Civil War—elected the grandson of a man who picked cotton. I want to say that one more time. In the heart of the South, the home of the Civil War, a majority White district—these voters elected the grandson of a man who picked cotton over the children of the former U.S. Senator and Presidential candidate Strom Thurmond, and a very popular Governor, Governor Carol Campbell.

I am hopeful because I have experienced the power of a State that has been transformed, the great State of South Carolina. So to my American family, please remain optimistic.

On Monday, I discussed the importance of supporting our law enforcement community. I followed on yesterday by asking all of us to also realize that although the vast majority of our law enforcement officers only seek to protect and to serve, there is still work to be done. There is a lack of trust between the Black community and law enforcement—one that we as an American family must come together and solve. I believe an old saying is a vital part of finding solutions: The only way to know where you are going is to know where you have been.

As I mentioned earlier, part of the rich and sometimes provocative history of America is to point in one of two directions. One is to realize that over the past 240 years we have had our challenges. Our Nation has nearly been pulled apart. But out of the crisis of our past has come the hope for our future. In a relatively short amount of time, we have made, in my estimation, remarkable progress as a nation. And while I will talk about a few of the policies I believe will help us move forward, as well as some things that are more about simply getting us to interact together—to sit down and break bread—the one thing our collective history has taught us is that we must not lose hope.

Yes, there is unresolved pain, suffering, and misery, but this is the greatest Nation on Earth, and we are the greatest Nation on Earth for a rea-

son. Flawed men at our foundation opted to sacrifice themselves on behalf of other flawed men, and together we have done something unique in the history of our planet; that is, simply to create a country that is based on the premise that all men are created equal and that our path forward will be blazed together.

As the Book of Joshua says, we have to recognize our memorial stones so that we have a chance to move forward.

So there is obviously no single solution here. I hope to share a few today, some of which I have talked about before, some of which have broad support in Congress, and some that have nothing to do with the Federal Government. Believe it or not, the government is not the answer to what ails us. The Federal Government can help in places, but the good news is that 300 million Americans, we as a nation, as a family, we are the solution.

The first section of solutions sits in the realm of law enforcement and the Justice Department. Over the past few years, I have talked to a wide variety of officials from across the law enforcement arena, as well as groups like the Urban League and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and many other groups. One solution that seems to be acceptable and almost exciting to so many folks is the notion of body cameras. So I have introduced my Safer Officers and Safer Citizens Act, which provides more resources for police departments to obtain body cameras, as well as to help pay for some of the startup costs for storage units and other requirements.

While we know body cameras cannot be the panacea, we also know this: If an officer is wearing one, we have a much better chance of understanding the situation from all sides. This is why so many law enforcement officers and agencies support using them. It is why we are seeing cities from Los Angeles to New York outfitting their officers with more and more body cameras.

I have also introduced the Walter Scott Notification Act, along with my good friend Senator GRASSLEY. Our system for tracking police shootings is not working for our Nation. It is a patchwork system not built for the 21st century. So, long story short, this bill changes that. Hopefully it fixes the problems. We must know where we are to know where we must go.

I am also glad to see my colleagues in the House, including my very good friend Congressman TREY GOWDY, starting a bipartisan working group to take a hard look at the relationship between the Black community and the law enforcement community. I am very hopeful that a similar group will start in the Senate.

My final point on the Federal level is that I have had the pleasure of working with a group of colleagues—with JOHN CORNYN and many others—working on this notion of criminal justice reform. I am very hopeful that work will con-

tinue to move forward and produce real fruit.

Much of this work that needs to be done won't be done on the Federal level if it is done by the government; it will be done by the local government and the State government.

I have talked to so many in the law enforcement community who talk about the need for more training—specifically, deescalation training, diversity training—and more efforts to get police officers out of their cars and into communities so that they form positive, healthy relationships so that when they are walking down the street, the folks know them. I spoke earlier with Senator LANKFORD, who talked about this notion of getting officers embedded in communities so that the officers know the very people they are talking to. This seems like common sense, and it seems like the right direction. It is a two-way street.

I think the Dallas police chief said it very well. He made the point better than I ever could. He said: If you have issues with policing in your neighborhood, well, we are hiring. That is very important. The Dallas Police Department, along with police departments all across this country, are hiring. He said: We will train you up, and we will put you back into your community.

These are the sorts of real-world solutions and actions that build trust in communities.

The second set of issues we have to tackle—and this is no surprise to anyone who has heard me over the last couple of years—focuses on one specific word. The word is "opportunity." Too many communities in our Nation feel like they have been left behind, like no one cares, so why should they care? As someone, as I said earlier, who grew up in a single-parent household, I can tell you how strong that sensation to quit becomes, how quickly it grows. When you feel the way I felt in the past, frustration rises and you start seeing the world differently. You don't trust people who aren't from your neighborhood. That is a dangerous recipe.

How do we tackle this problem? The answer, from my estimation, is kind of simple: education, jobs, and investment—the cornerstones of my opportunity agenda.

On the jobs front, I have worked across the aisle with Senators like CORY BOOKER to introduce the LEAP Act, which allows for a very successful South Carolina apprenticeship program to become a national model so that kids can earn and learn at the exact same time. We know not everyone wants to or can afford to go to college, but that doesn't mean they should not be able to find opportunities to provide for their families. By incentivizing apprenticeship programs, we can help folks see their potential, experience their potential, and live fulfilling and profitable lives.

I have also introduced the Investing in Opportunity Act, which seeks to create a path for private sector dollars—

not government dollars but private sector dollars—to be invested in distressed communities. We have 50 million Americans living in distressed communities and over \$2 trillion of unrealized capital gains just sitting there. We should invest those dollars to be invested in those communities.

Finally, education. My good friend TREY GOWDY said that education is the closest thing to magic in America. I think he is right. You can look at our incarceration rates, our unemployment rates, our high school dropout rates, our lifetime average incomes, and they all point to one specific area: educational achievement. Trust me, I am the guy who just told you I almost failed out of high school. I know this firsthand. For me, the answer is very clear: Give parents a chance to find the best school for their children, and they will—period.

Finally, solutions on a personal level. Again I turn to Dallas. As I was watching one of the surgeons at Parkland Hospital, he was talking about his feelings toward law enforcement. He was saying that he was struggling the night after the shooting. He had worked all night trying to save the lives of these officers, and he was tossing and turning, torn up on the inside that he could not save their lives. I can't imagine how he felt. I can't—Dr. BARRASSO, a surgeon—I can't imagine how he felt, trying to save the lives of men and women who were willing to give their lives for others. I can't imagine it. He is an African-American man. As he woke up and prepared for the next day, he struggled. He struggled with his personal relationship and his personal concerns with law enforcement.

What is he doing? I think this is instructive for all of us. He said he is making sure his daughter sees him buying lunch for officers and sees them interacting in a friendly way because he doesn't want to pass on to his daughter any sense of fear of law enforcement, but respect, appreciation, and affection for the men and women who wear the uniform.

I have seen it in my hometown of North Charleston, SC. It is an amazing experience. On Christmas morning, dozens of officers with dozens of volunteers show up at city hall, and at 6 o'clock in the morning, these guys and gals go door-to-door in the poorest neighborhoods in North Charleston. I have been there with them once or twice. They knock at the door, and they look into the eyes of a little girl or a little boy who is expecting nothing for Christmas, and they hand that child a toy.

There are simple ways to bridge the divide between the African-American community and other poor communities and law enforcement. There are powerful ways, simple ways, to make a difference. As I have said a couple of times, the government cannot make us get along. We have seen it tried before. It simply cannot force you and me to take the leap of faith to try to trust again.

The notion of America is really built on the foundation of faith—faith in each other, faith in a higher calling. If we are to mend the relationships in our family, we will have to do so by looking into each other's eyes, walking in each other's shoes, and listening—not waiting to talk, but listening—listening, not only with your head, but listening with your heart so that you hear and feel the pain and the challenges of others.

This is a simple commandment from God's Word, Matthew 22:39, to love your neighbor as yourself. This is not simply a commandment, however. This requires action. You have to do something.

TREY GOWDY, a Congressman from South Carolina, and I are going to bring pastors and law enforcement officials together in South Carolina so that we can have an honest, sometimes painful conversation about how to move forward together.

In Charleston County I had a chance to speak with Sheriff Al Cannon, a longtime sheriff of Charleston. He simply said that both sides have to come together because this is not a one-sided issue.

Senator LANKFORD and I are discussing a new idea called Solution Sunday, a wonderful idea that Senator LANKFORD shared with me earlier this week, and we will talk about that more in the coming weeks, but the premise of the idea is you have to do more than just go to church together. We as a nation aren't even doing that very well. But we have to eat together and do projects together. So we will hear more about the exciting idea of Solution Sunday in the upcoming weeks.

I will continue to reach out to my colleagues and my friends who may not look like me, who may have a different philosophy than I do, so I can understand their hopes, their dreams, and their frustrations because listening is so important. As we look around our Nation, it appears to me that we haven't done nearly enough listening to each other.

In closing, I hope we all remember that we have survived turbulent times before: the Civil War, the Great Depression, World War II, 1968, and in South Carolina, 2015. I still marvel at how our State responded to the shootings at Mother Emanuel—the power of forgiveness, the power of love conquering hate.

Earlier this year, I lost my grandfather. I haven't really talked about it publicly. He was 94 years old and meant so much to me. This was a man born in Salley, SC, in 1921. I can only imagine what he had seen in South Carolina. I can only imagine the life, the challenges, the struggles of an African-American male in the Deep South in 1921, 1931, and the 1940s. He didn't finish elementary school. He had to pick cotton. He never learned to read. He eventually got a job at the Port of Charleston—a job that, while it didn't give us much in the way of tangible re-

sources, provided an immeasurable lifeline for our family.

This is a story that has been repeated generation after generation in this country. I have heard the story from a very different frame from my good friend MARCO RUBIO. It is a story of success. It is a story of significance. It is a story of America.

My grandfather's grandson, yours truly, is a U.S. Senator. My brother, another grandson, rose to the rank of command sergeant major in the U.S. Army. My nephew, his great grandson, has graduated from Georgia Tech, Duke University, and now is on his way to Emory for medical school. That is the beauty of America—from cotton to Congress in one lifetime.

We are a beautiful Nation. We are an amazing family. Families fight sometimes. That is OK. We must remember that we are one single family. We can all get to where we are going, we must get to where we are going, and we will get there together.

I want one more time to slow down, pause, and remember the sacrifices made by five Dallas police officers, the tragedies in Baton Rouge and Minnesota.

We have been through so much, but a bright future is still there for our taking. Let's make sure we grab it together.

Let me just say thank you to my staff, who worked very hard all week long to make sure we were prepared for these presentations, and I want to specifically thank my communications director Sean Smith, who helped put most of these words together, helped us work through the emotions, the challenges, and how to frame the conversation that we believe America must have. As my communications director, who happens to be a White guy, and my chief of staff who happens to be an African-American female—as we worked together, it reminded me that in the midst of our struggles, our challenges, and our difficulties, I depend on a rainbow coalition, a patchwork quilt, to present my thoughts, my heart to America.

We are America. We are Americans. God has blessed the United States of America.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I haven't watched the last three speeches in detail of my esteemed colleague from South Carolina, but I have watched good parts of them. I am tremendously impressed by his personal experiences, his empathy for what is going on in America today, and his positive attitude, which I admire very much.

CONDEMNING THE VIOLENT ATTACK IN DALLAS AND RECOGNIZING THE PEACEFUL PROTESTERS

Today, before we adjourn, the Senate will unanimously adopt a resolution condemning last week's violent attack in Dallas. This attack was on the police officers in the Dallas community, and other law enforcement agencies

were also targeted. The people killed were Dallas police officers.

We were all devastated by this murderous rampage that claimed the lives of five officers and wounded nine other police officers. Every Member of the Senate stands with the Dallas Police Department, and we have been so impressed with the chief of police. We stand with the Dallas Police Department, the victims, their families, and the brave men and women who serve the people of Dallas.

I support this resolution because the least we can do in the Senate is honor these heroes. I support this resolution because the least we can do in the Senate is to recognize the sacrifices made, much of it on national television.

I think it is important that we also acknowledge the peaceful protesters who were marching that day for justice and an end to violence. They were calling for—and doing it in a peaceful manner—the end to the brutality and hostility that has taken the lives of Americans of all backgrounds but disproportionately people of color.

In the days leading up to the rally in Dallas, as we heard from my friend from South Carolina, two men were killed: Alton Sterling of Baton Rouge, LA, and Philando Castile of St. Paul, MN.

The young man in Louisiana was held down by two police officers and then killed. Just the next day, a man was killed in his car with his fiancée and her 4-year-old daughter there, listening and watching. Our friends in the African-American community demand recognition that their lives are valued and respected, as everyone's life should be. It should be done equally.

It was my suggestion that we add just a word or two to the resolution to at least recognize the purpose of the peaceful demonstrators in this resolution. There was a decision made that that not be a part of the resolution, and I accept that, but I wanted to make sure we recognize these peaceful protesters and why they were there.

There are many victims here, be they law enforcement officers, innocent people, innocent people of color. They all deserve to be acknowledged. As has been said by a number of people here over the last few days, you can't sweep these problems that we have under the rug.

I thought it was tremendous that the Senator from South Carolina talked about three things we should all agree on: body cameras, data collection—which is a code word for profiling—and of course something with the criminal justice system that we are so close to having on this floor that we could vote on. It is bipartisan. It should be done. So I appreciate very much the Senator from South Carolina mentioning these three things, and I think they are certainly worth mentioning again.

We can support the police officers of America, the men and women, and mourn those who have fallen and honor their bravery while also acknowledging

that we must do better in preventing the senseless killings of people of color.

I echo President Obama's words from the memorial service in Dallas. He must be recognized for these great words when he said: "Find the character, as Americans, to open our hearts to each other."

We need to do that. If we do, we can find empathy for each other, the empathy to understand the challenges law enforcement faces every day, and the empathy to understand the frustration and anger within the communities of color across our Nation.

I look forward to the resolution being adopted. It is something the Senate should be proud of.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

MEGABYTE ACT OF 2016

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise today in support of H.R. 4904, the Making Electronic Government Accountable By Yielding Tangible Efficiencies Act of 2016, and that is an acronym for the MEGABYTE Act.

H.R. 4904 is the House companion to a piece of legislation Senator GARY PETERS and I introduced, S. 2340. I would like to thank Senator PETERS for being the lead cosponsor of the Senate version of the MEGABYTE Act and thank Senator THAD COCHRAN for cosponsoring it. S. 2340 passed the Senate by voice vote last week.

My friends in the House of Representatives—Representative MATT CARTWRIGHT, Representative WILL HURD, Representative STEVE RUSSELL, and Representative ELIJAH CUMMINGS—are the lead sponsors of H.R. 4904. It passed the House on June 7, 2016, by a vote of 366 to 0.

The MEGABYTE Act reforms the Federal Government's management of information technology software licensing. The nonpartisan Government Accountability Office, or the GAO, found that implementing oversight and management policies of Federal software licenses saved a single agency 181 million taxpayer dollars per year.

If implemented, the MEGABYTE Act could yield billions in savings across the Federal Government. Now, the Federal Government spends \$82 billion a year on information technology. In 2015, for example, for the second year in a row, GAO listed IT software license management as a top priority for its annual duplication report. The GAO stated that the executive branch "does not have adequate policies for managing software licenses." Of the 24 major Federal agencies, only 2 have implemented comprehensive and clear management policies of Federal software licenses. Furthermore, none of the 24 major Federal agencies have fully implemented all 5 industry-best practices recommended by the GAO.

The MEGABYTE Act saves taxpayer dollars and cuts government waste through the following actions:

The Office of Management and Budget Director shall issue a directive requiring that the chief information officer of each executive agency is to identify clear roles, responsibilities, and central oversight authority within the agency for managing enterprise software license agreements and commercial software licenses.

Agencies will also establish a comprehensive inventory, including 80 percent of software licensing spending and enterprise licenses in the agency.

They shall regularly track and maintain software licenses to assist the executive agency in implementing decisions throughout the software license management lifecycle.

They shall analyze software usage and other data to make cost-effective decisions. I notice that every now and then, someone has a database software package and they never use the database. We the taxpayer can save that money.

They should provide training relevant to software license management and establish goals and objectives of the software license management program of the agency.

Lastly, I will mention that they should consider the software license management lifecycle phases—including the requisition, reception, deployment, maintenance, retirement, and disposal phases—to implement effective decisionmaking and incorporate existing standards, processes, and metrics.

Congress has the responsibility to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being used efficiently and effectively.

For all the reasons stated above, I offer my strong support for the MEGABYTE Act and urge the Senate to pass H.R. 4904, sending it to the President's desk.

With that said, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4904 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4904) to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue a directive on the management of software licenses, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4904) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. CASSIDY. I yield the floor.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMENDING THE JUNIOR SENATOR FROM SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, let me start today by commending the remarks by the junior Senator from South Carolina. Throughout this week and several—I guess it is now three times this week—his words and his passion have both inspired us and informed us, but I think he has also challenged all of us to do more for our country. I am grateful that I was here for his remarks today. I commend him for those words and for what he talked about on the floor today.

STORM ACT

Mr. President, 3 months ago I spoke on the floor to highlight the need to expand our arsenal of financial measures against the terrorist group ISIS, which we know is also known as ISIL and known by other names or acronyms. I will use the acronym “ISIS.” I said at that time that these agents of hate, violence, and chaos could be significantly diminished by attacks on their finances.

Not long after that, the President signed into law the bipartisan Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act, which I sponsored here in the Senate, which will undermine ISIS’s ability and efforts to pillage antiquities in Iraq and Syria for profit. But we need to keep up the pressure on this issue on ISIS.

All terrorist organizations, of course, need resources to survive, and this is a vulnerability we must fully exploit. Dismantling the financial networks that support terrorism is a critical part of our mission to protect the United States of America. ISIS is the best example of how pressing the need is today.

Militarily, ISIS continues to destabilize Iraq and Syria at the expense of millions of civilians who are caught in the crossfire. It continues to cultivate affiliates in northern and western Africa, central Asia, and other parts of the Middle East. It continues to sow the seeds of terror in neighboring countries such as Turkey and Saudi Arabia and further afield—in Europe, Africa, and, of course, here in the United States. Many thousands of innocent lives have been tragically and unjustly lost in these attacks.

Financially, ISIS relies on a variety of revenue streams. We must attack all of them.

U.S. and coalition airpower is disabling oil refineries and stopping smuggling convoys in their tracks. U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Peter

Gersten, deputy commander of the Combined Joint Air Task Force—Operation Inherent Resolve, reported on April 26 of this year that “ISIS’s ability to finance their war through oil refineries has been destroyed.” That is good news, but we have a lot more to do. As a result, ISIS is cutting fighters’ salaries and it is plundering everything and anything it can reach. It is looting banks, kidnapping for ransom, and extorting money directly from the 8 million people caught in its territory. According to the Center for Analysis of Terrorism, such extortion now accounts for more than one-third of the income of ISIS.

Tough sanctions have helped curtail ISIS’s ability to access the international banking system, but ISIS is using informal channels to receive and spend money off the grid. Nonmonetary transfer systems and informal exchange houses operating across multiple countries have been less vulnerable to traditional sanctions.

As ISIS adapts, so must the United States. The Department of the Treasury has been relentless in identifying and blacklisting individuals and entities that finance terror. I applaud them for this work. Yet, because terrorist groups exploit financial jurisdictions to channel their ill-gotten gains, the United States cannot effectively stop terrorist financiers by itself; our coalition partners must join this fight. We cannot afford weak links in this chain.

In February of this year, I visited Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Qatar to conduct oversight of our terrorism finance strategy. I found that the events of the last 2 years have brought this issue of terrorism financing into sharper focus for the countries in the region.

While many of our coalition partners are taking steps in the right direction, much more work needs to be done to stem this tide. We need to see more investigations turn into arrests, more prosecutions, and more sentencing that take terrorist financiers off the streets. As with nuclear nonproliferation, we need to build and reinforce the international architecture that governs international cooperation to stop terrorist financiers.

Last week, Senator ISAKSON and I introduced the STORM Act, the Stop Terrorist Operational Resources and Money Act. This act authorizes a new designation called “jurisdiction of terrorism financing concern” if a country is not doing enough to stop terrorist financiers. Once designated by the United States of America—in fact, once designated by the President of the United States of America—that country would face significant penalties that include the cessation of aid and the suspension of arms sales. To avoid the penalty, the country can enter into a technical assistance agreement with the United States to remediate the problem that led to its designation.

The STORM Act also sanctions foreign financial institutions that make deals on behalf of ISIS or launder

money for ISIS. Like this Chamber’s recent action to sanction foreign banks that deal with Hezbollah, we must ensure that no part of the international banking system is left open to ISIS. We expect overseas banks to join with us by using all of the tools at their disposal to make certain they are not unwittingly or negligently acting for ISIS. Banks that fail to do so have no right to do business with the United States of America.

The STORM Act will be a powerful tool in the President’s arsenal and future Presidents’ arsenals to starve terrorist groups of the resources they need to survive. I thank Senator ISAKSON for his original cosponsorship of this important legislation.

It is essential that we send it through the Foreign Relations Committee, through Congress—both House and Senate—and to the President’s desk for signature as soon as possible.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT RACE

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, 2 days ago, five police officers were shot and killed and others were very seriously wounded in the middle of a rally trying to bring people together, trying to allow Americans to be able to have what many call our “conversation on race.”

As several have mentioned on this floor before about my friend the junior Senator from South Carolina, TIM SCOTT—Senator SCOTT commented on race all this week, as have several others on this floor who have talked about it. I hear many people in my own State and in the conversations I have had around my State speak about issues of race, and I keep hearing this ongoing statement: We need to have a greater conversation about race.

Somewhat, I think, we as a nation are confused about how this actually gets resolved in some ways. So I wanted to make a quick comment and a challenge to my fellow Senators and others who may be around. The challenge is very straightforward and simple. We talk about a conversation on race as if it is something that can happen nationally at a rally, at a protest, in the media, among leaders. It is not really how America solves issues and problems. We solve it around dinner tables. That has always been the place that we have resolved issues as a nation. It is our families who sit down together and get a chance to talk it out.

Over the past week, I have had this reoccurring conversation with people—just a simple question: Have you ever had a family of another race sit down with your family for dinner at your home? Have you ever invited another family of another race to your home for dinner?

That doesn’t seem like a challenging question, but I have been amazed at the number of people I have posed that question to who have looked at me, who have hesitated, and said: Of course, I have.

Then I said: When?

They had to hesitate and think and said: No, I don't think, really, that has ever happened. I have people I work with, people I interact with, play sports with, go to school with, and live in my neighborhood, but I don't think I have ever had a family of a different race than mine over for dinner.

Here is my simple challenge to us. If we are going to have a conversation about race, maybe the conversation should start with each of our families at our dinner tables. It is what Senator SCOTT mentioned earlier. I have laid out a challenge, just a simple statement, what I call Solution Sundays. If you are going to be part of this solution in America, maybe on a Sunday for lunch or for dinner, invite another family over of another race just to sit and have conversation. Everybody can put their feet under the same table and develop a friendship and a relationship.

Every person can do that. Every person can be a part of the solution. Every person in our country can start to move that conversation a little farther. It is part of who we are.

We don't solve things based on a vote in America, we solve things around our dinner table.

I would challenge every American to invite someone from another race to their home, just sit and have Sunday lunch together and watch and begin to see what happens in our Nation.

IRAN

Mr. President, today is also an anniversary day. Today is happy birthday to the JCPOA, what is commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal. Happy birthday, you are 1-year old today.

In many ways we have seen some progress in some areas. Iran does have fewer centrifuges now than what they had a year ago. Iran has allowed the inspectors to come into some locations. That is a positive thing. Iran has allowed engagement in some of their purchasing of some of their nuclear materials. That is a positive thing, and I am grateful for the progress.

I hope that progress continues, but at this point it is just a hope. Quite frankly, today, for me, recognizing the 1-year birthday of the Iran nuclear deal is a reminder to the administration that America and the Congress have not forgotten that this is a deal that has to be implemented with great strength, because the issues that we face in relationship with Iran are a multitude.

Let me just highlight a few things just to be able to talk through some of the issues that I have seen and things that are still coming, things that have happened in the past year and things that are still to come.

For instance, in the past year the international community has released around \$100 billion to Iran. So \$100 billion has flown back to them. What has happened in that time period? Well, they have recapitalized their banks. They have recapitalized in several areas they have needed in their econ-

omy, but they have also increased their military defense spending by 90 percent in the past year. That flood of money has accelerated the Iranian military buildup. We have actually contributed to that as Americans.

About a month or so after and shortly connected to the Iran nuclear deal being announced and going through the process, Iran released several folks who were considered hostages by the Americans—Americans jailed in Iran. They released those individuals and shortly thereafter the administration released \$1.7 billion to Iran from the Judgment Fund, saying this was part of the return from some of the money that was required from Iran from 1979 in the fall of the Shah—\$1.7 billion.

Interestingly enough, months later, Iran, in its movement, increased its military spending exactly \$1.7 billion, and the Iranians announced those two were connected. American tax dollars directly funded \$1.7 billion of Iranian military buildup.

I wish I could even stop there. Just months ago, the administration announced that we were going to start purchasing heavy water from Iran.

You see, we don't produce our own heavy water. Heavy water is used in development of nuclear materials for a nuclear weapon, but it is also used in research. The United States doesn't produce our own heavy water. We purchase it from Canada mostly.

But instead, this time we purchased nuclear water for over \$8 million from Iran. So we didn't purchase from our ally, but we purchased from Iran.

I wish I could tell you that is all it is, but this is what Secretary Moniz announced with this statement upon the purchase of that heavy water from Iran:

The idea is: OK, we tested it, it's perfectly good heavy water. It meets spec. We'll buy a little of this.

He said:

That will be a statement to the world: "You want to buy heavy water from Iran, you can buy heavy water from Iran. It's been done. Even the United States did it."

In the past year we have moved from sanctions on Iran to being Iran's salesman, to helping them sell heavy water to the world, telling them: Don't buy from our allies in Canada anymore. We tested the Iranian water, and we like it. You should buy that.

That is a pretty big shift in the last year, to move from "we have sanctions on you as a terrorist nation" to "we are your salesmen." People of the world should start buying their heavy nuclear water from Iran.

That is all just in the past year. I wish I could stop, but many people have noticed, if they are watching the media at all, that Iran has launched multiple test missiles in the past several months. On October 10, they launched a missile with an 800-mile range. On November 21, they launched another long-range missile. On March 8 and March 9, they launched other missiles as test missiles.

All of these are in violation of the missile test treaty ban that has been in place for years on Iran. What has been done so far to be able to sanction back down sanctions? Nada.

They are recapitalizing their military. They are testing new missiles that are capable of carrying nuclear armaments. They are continuing to pursue nuclear materials in opposition to the direct agreement.

Just days ago, Germany released a long report from their domestic intelligence agency, which is their equivalent of our FBI. They released a statement saying the findings by the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution—that is their FBI—in a 317-page report said they had found that Iran had a clandestine effort to seek illicit nuclear technology and equipment from German companies at what is even, by international standards, a quantitatively and actively high level.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel underscored the findings in a statement to Parliament saying: Iran violated the U.N. Security Council's anti-missile development regulations, seeking nuclear materials in a quantitatively high level from German companies in a clandestine way. Angela Merkel is saying they are continuing to press on the missile side of things. They are continuing to advance.

At the same time, out in plain sight, Iran has purchased the S-300 missile defense system from Russia. They continue to have a tremendous number of religious- and human-rights-documented prisoners in Iran. There are an estimated 821 individuals right now. By the way, some of those also are Americans who are currently imprisoned in Iran right now—some of them just for the practice of a minority faith.

Just weeks ago, I asked DNI Clapper, the President's Director of National Intelligence: What has changed in Iran's being the largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world in the last year?

His response to me was this: Nothing. They are still advancing against Bahrain to have a coup. They are still funding the civil war and coup that is happening in Yemen. They are still funding Hezbollah. They are still propping up Assad. In fact, I have increased their funding levels there.

All of those things still continue to advance, just with more money and with more supplies now than what they had in the past.

It is the 1-year birthday of the Iran nuclear deal. Iran is a rising power in the region and continues to advance toward nuclear technology. So what are we going to do about it?

One is that we need to continue to remind everyone who is out there that this is a very serious threat. Iran with a nuclear weapon is completely unacceptable in this world. The largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world should not have nuclear weapons. The world community should at least agree on that.

I have pushed on several areas. I authored a deal dealing with its resolution, in fact, detailing when the administration should do snapbacks. The administration has been very vague about when they will actually snap back sanctions. So we took their deal, which they had, went through it in great detail, put it in technical language, and put it in a resolution to clearly state: Here are the boundaries of this resolution so it has no fuzzy gray areas.

Through an appropriations amendment, we have also demanded that we get greater detail of the \$1.7 billion in transfer money from the Judgment Fund that was transferred to Iran. Currently, we have almost no detail on that other than that we know Iran used it for its military development because they announced that and put that out.

Third, I have worked with Senator FISCHER from Nebraska creating a Judgment Fund transparency piece so that we will never again transfer American dollars to any state sponsor of terrorism around the world. Couldn't we have that as minimum criteria—that we will not spend the hard-earned tax dollars of Americans to help supply the military requirements of a larger state sponsor of terrorism?

I cosponsored a bill with Senator RUBIO which prohibits giving Ex-Im financing to any company in Iran or to Iran in general to make sure that Iran is not coming, again, to the American taxpayer to be able to get some sort of subsidies to be able to do that.

And as I have mentioned before, we will continue to remind the administration that no one is forgetting because we do not have the option of losing track of a nuclear Iran.

Happy birthday to the Iran nuclear deal. I hope that in the years ahead, we can say that we have a non-nuclear power Iran, but I will tell you that based on what has happened in the past year, I remain incredibly skeptical of that.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need to pass the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, also known as WRDA. Despite strong, bipartisan support, the Senate has yet to take a vote on a commonsense, necessary piece of legislation.

Frankly, I am extremely disappointed. WRDA will help communities across the Nation who need to repair, expand, or modernize their water infrastructure. The bill invests in the Nation's ports and inland waterways to improve commerce, and it moves us toward major upgrades to locks and dams in places such as the Upper Mississippi River System.

WRDA will improve flood protection in order to better safeguard communities from damage and will restore ecosystems and promote public access for recreation.

This legislation empowers local partners in water resource project implementation and improves the approval process for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects.

WRDA promotes innovative technologies to address water resource challenges, including additional support to drought-stricken communities.

This bill also makes essential investments in drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, including emergency assistance to communities facing water contamination, such as Flint, MI.

Earlier this week, I had the opportunity to again meet with families from Flint.

The devastating water crisis continues to have an unimaginable impact on the children and families there. I was heartbroken to hear more about some of their daily struggles, but I was also inspired by their resiliency.

The provisions included in the WRDA bill will help ensure that Flint residents will have the resources and support necessary to address this ongoing and catastrophic tragedy. WRDA will help Flint residents, but it will also help communities all across our country with drinking water and infrastructure challenges. It will modernize the State Revolving Loan Fund Programs and capitalize the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program—also known as WIFIA—a new, low-interest financing mechanism to fund large-dollar-value infrastructure projects all across our Nation.

The many benefits of the WRDA bill—from drinking water protections to waterway improvements, to water body restoration—is why it enjoys broad, diverse support. Over 100 stakeholder organizations have called on the Senate to bring WRDA to the floor. These groups include: the American Society of Civil Engineers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Nature Conservancy, United Steelworkers, National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

Our dedicated partners across the aisle are also ready to move on this important bipartisan piece of legislation. Senator INHOFE recently joined 28—28 of his Republican colleagues on a letter to the Senate Republican leadership calling for a vote. The Environmental and Public Works Committee passed the Water Resources Development Act with strong, overwhelming bipartisan support—a vote of 19 to 1.

This commonsense bill is ready for a vote in the Senate. Communities across our country—including the families of Flint—are ready and waiting for us to act. I truly hope the WRDA bill can be prioritized for action on the floor when we return in September. We simply must act, and we must act as quickly as possible.

STARTUP COMPANIES

Mr. President, when we think about fast-growing startup companies, we

might think about Silicon Valley, Boston, or Boulder. While these cities certainly have very vibrant startup ecosystems, innovative startups and small businesses are being founded and are growing across the United States, including my home State of Michigan. In each of our States, there are hard-working entrepreneurs who have established job-creating startups. These dynamic companies act as entrepreneurial leaders, innovators, and job creators within our communities. Industries, including retail, health care, entertainment, transportation, and education are being revolutionized and reshaped by entrepreneurs in our local communities. They are reimagining the future by using technology to solve problems and create innovative products and services.

According to the Kauffman Foundation, startups are a major force for job creation in the United States. Startups under 1 year old create about 2 million jobs per year, accounting for 20 percent of gross job creation, though they only represent 8 percent of the firms in this country.

Despite the fact that new startups are vital to our country's economic and job growth, many members of our community may not know these innovative companies exist, and many startup companies may not know where to access the resources to help their companies succeed.

In 2013, I joined a bipartisan group of colleagues—including Congressmen POLIS and ISSA—to create the first annual Startup Day Across America to bring attention to startups throughout Michigan and across the United States. That year, I had the opportunity to visit Start Garden—a combined venture capital fund and shared startup workspace in Grand Rapids—with Congressmen HUIZENGA and AMASH, where we heard firsthand about the exciting new businesses being funded in Western Michigan.

In 2014, I met with a group of entrepreneurs at the Madison Building in Detroit, home to startups backed by Detroit Venture Partners. I spoke with Paul Glomski, the CEO of Detroit Labs.

Founded in 2011 with just four employees, Detroit Labs now has upward of 100 people working for them, building cutting-edge technology in downtown Detroit. They dream up, design, and build mobile apps and have made them for General Motors, Domino's Pizza, Kimberly-Clark, DTE Energy, and many others. They also provide a paid apprenticeship program that teaches hard-working Michiganders how to code and connects them to jobs upon completion of the program.

Startups are not just about apps and tech, though. I also visited Ponyride, a coworking space in Corktown, where I met Eric Yelsma, founder of Detroit Denim. He and his team are making high-quality jeans in Detroit and shipping them across the country.

In 2015, I visited startups in Traverse City, where I heard about the growing

startup and venture capital ecosystems in Northern Michigan that are pulling in talent from across the Midwest, including Cherry Capital Foods, a young company that works with Michigan farmers to help them find new customers.

This year, I have teamed up with Senators WARNER, DAINES, and SCOTT to encourage our colleagues to visit a startup anywhere in their home State during the week of August 4. Like me, they know startups are taking root across the Nation—in Richmond, VA, Bozeman, MT, Charleston, SC, Kalamazoo, MI, and other communities.

In fact, Michigan is one of the fastest growing venture capital communities in the Nation, a critical asset that will help us become the startup capital of the Midwest. We have world-class colleges and universities, more engineers than any part of the country, and an infrastructure to export not just nationally but all across the globe.

While I am focused on connecting talented Michigan entrepreneurs to the capital they need to grow and succeed, I will also continue working with my colleagues on Federal policies that will support these important startups and small businesses. That means strong science, technology, engineering, arts, and math, or STEAM, education, along with expanding efforts to encourage our Nation's students to learn how to code. Even basic programming skills are incredibly marketable, not just among tech startups but throughout the entire economy.

We also need to make sure startups are able to compete on a level playing field on the Internet and have access to fast, affordable broadband no matter where you live. Additionally, we must work together to help entrepreneurs master challenges and impediments that stand in their way as they seek to establish their firms and to create jobs. Startups play a key role in economic growth, and we have to do more to help them.

A recent report from the Economic Innovation Group found that since the end of the recent recession, new firms have increased by only 2.3 percent and are concentrated in only 25 percent of U.S. counties, especially in dense, higher population areas. We have to ensure that every American community has the opportunity to experience the economic benefits new business establishments bring. We have to ensure that every American community has the requisite tools to support entrepreneurs as they turn their ideas into action, transforming their neighborhoods and the economic trajectories of their neighborhoods in the process.

Ultimately, success for any company comes down to matching talent with capital. Small businesses and startups now have a variety of sources of capital to expand and create jobs: traditional bank loans, for example, SBA loans including the 7(a) Loan Program I have championed in the past, State-backed loans through the Michigan Economic

Development Corporation, facilitated by the State Small Business Credit Initiative, venture capital, friends or family, and now even crowdfunding.

Just as there are a number of factors that contribute to a vibrant startup ecosystem, there will be a wide array of stakeholders, decisions, and industries that will contribute to shaping Michigan's future economy. I am committed to ensuring that our growing startup community will be a fixture of creativity, innovation, and job creation for decades to come.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

REMEMBERING CAPTAIN JEFF KUSS AND
RECOGNIZING THE BLUE ANGELS

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, with all that has occurred in our country over the past few weeks, I wanted to take a moment to bring everyone's attention to something that had a profound impact in my home State of Florida and something all Americans should reflect on.

This weekend, the Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron—most famously known as the Blue Angels—will take to the skies over Pensacola for the Pensacola Beach Air Show. It will be their first air show appearance in Florida since that fateful day of June 2, when they lost Capt. Jeff Kuss, a U.S. Marine Corps Aviator, and the No. 6 airplane in the Blue Angels lineup.

Captain Kuss, simply put, was an American hero. Like all Blue Angels pilots and the men and women who support the Blue Angels mission, Captain Kuss was the very best of what our military and our Nation has to offer. He was a war hero. He served our country proudly over hostile skies in Afghanistan. He was a decorated aviator who earned the Strike Flight Air Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal during his time with the Corps. I commend the Marine Corps for training such a skilled aviator, as well as Naval Air Station Pensacola, where he first started flying in 2007.

Captain Kuss was a hometown hero, a local boy from Durango, CO, who graduated from Durango High School and attended Fort Lewis College. He fulfilled a lifelong dream by performing a flyover with his teammates over Super Bowl 50 and then watched his Denver Broncos win their third Super Bowl championship.

Captain Kuss was a hero in his own home. A loving son to his parents Janet and Michael, a devoted husband to his wife Christina, and loving father to his two young children, Calvin and Sloane.

The same attributes that Captain Kuss demonstrated throughout his life—service, sacrifice, loyalty, faith, devotion—they were all present in his final moments as well. He could have been ejected, but instead he stayed with his plane and steered it away from a more populated area to spare any additional loss of life.

I know that in our country today there is ample reason for pessimism. We hear plenty from various voices about what is wrong with our country, but let's take a moment to reflect on the life of Capt. Jeff Kuss and the Blue Angels because they are everything that is right about our country. The love they share for one another, the sacrifices they make in service to our Nation, and the devotion they have to their calling represents the very best of the American spirit.

The rumble of those engines over the skies of Pensacola this weekend will not just be a resumption of their duties as aviators and military professionals; it will be a tribute—a tribute to Captain Kuss and the life he spent doing what he loved.

To the people of Pensacola, the "Cradle of Naval Aviation" and the place the Blue Angels call home, the Blues are their team. Think about whatever major sports team you have in your hometown and the love the community gives those professional or college athletes who compete on national television. It pales in comparison to the bond the people of Pensacola have to their home team, the Blue Angels.

Our State and the community in Pensacola took the loss of Captain Kuss very hard. To the people who saw him around town, he was Jeff, a friend, a neighbor, and someone to be proud of. And true to the spirit of Pensacola, the community has rallied to provide comfort to Captain Kuss's teammates and to his family.

I am so proud my home State is home to the Blues. I am proud Pensacola continues to embrace the Blues and to make every member of the Blue Angels family a part of the Pensacola family. I am proud the Blues will return to the Pensacola Beach Air Show this weekend, and I am proud the United States has a military made up of extraordinary Americans like Capt. Jeff Kuss.

So I ask all Americans to keep Captain Kuss and his family in your prayers. Thank God for him, for our military men and women and families who sacrifice alongside them, and for the freedom they risk their lives to preserve. I ask that God bless Captain Kuss and his family and God bless the Blue Angels as they fly this weekend and in the weeks, months, and years to come.

CENTRAL EVERGLADES PLANNING PROJECT

Mr. President, I recently addressed the Senate and our Nation about truly a disaster that is wreaking havoc on my home State of Florida. It is a thick and putrid algal bloom known as the blue-green algae that has appeared along large stretches of the St. Lucie River and the Indian River Lagoon.

This is happening because nutrient-rich water—basically, water that has things in it like fertilizer—is running into Lake Okeechobee from north of that lake, which is the lake in the center of our State. Historically, that water sat in Lake Okeechobee but

would run southward through the Everglades, but with development and canal systems and so forth, that all stopped.

So now that water sits in the lake, and it is held back by the Herbert Hoover Dike, which was put in place to prevent flooding and the loss of lives of those who live around Lake Okeechobee. When the water rises to levels that threaten the integrity of that dike, it needs to be released. And instead of being released in a clean form to the south the way it once historically was, it is now released to the east and to the west.

These waters, rich in nutrients, are released into estuaries and canals that also have nutrients in them because of storm water runoff or because of seepage from faulty or old septic tanks. When that flow reaches the ocean, the estuaries, the lagoon, the lake, or the river and is under the hot sun—as it is during the summer—the conditions become ripe for an algae bloom. That is what we are seeing now.

Although the bacteria is always present in the waters, it needs the present circumstances to form, and, unfortunately, the conditions we have now have been a perfect storm. This winter and spring provided numerous storms and produced so much rain that the Army Corps of Engineers began discharging water in January, and it hasn't stopped since.

I recently requested the Army Corps to stop these harmful discharges. They agreed to slow the discharges but not to stop them entirely. With the State of Florida's emergency declaration, more water is able to be held north of the lake, which allows for less water to be discharged east and west out of the lake.

I was there a couple of weeks ago, and it is a disgusting sight to see and to smell and to breathe. The algae has forced the closure of several beaches, killing fish and oysters, hurting tourism, harming local businesses, and sinking property values. People are canceling their vacations, and all of this is hurting the local economy in the Treasure Coast in enormous ways.

So far, we have done a number of things to help address this problem. For example, I supported our Governor's request that President Obama declare this a Federal disaster so that resources can be made available to the impacted communities. I asked that the President approve this request promptly so that the much needed resources can be deployed.

My office has also been working for months with the Small Business Administration on the harmful impacts of the discharges. In April we were able to get the SBA to ensure disaster loans were made available to businesses suffering from these discharges. We were recently able to confirm with the SBA that the disaster loans will apply to those affected by the current algal blooms.

We have been in touch with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about making sure the concerns many have about the health impacts of the algae are properly looked at and addressed. I was pleased to learn this week in a meeting that the CDC has

been working with the State of Florida, and I have asked them to stand ready, should the State require more assistance.

Perhaps the single most important long-term solution we can put in place is the need for the Senate and for the House to pass and for the President to sign the authorization for the Central Everglades Planning Project, which will divert these harmful discharges away from the coastlines and send more water south through the Everglades. We cannot lose our focus when it comes to these projects.

As you heard a moment ago, the Senator from Michigan mentioned the water bill. Along with 29 other Senators, I sent a letter to Senate leadership, asking that the Water Resources Development Act receive floor consideration. I have also urged the leaders of the Senate to take this action, specifically because of the merits of the Central Everglades Planning Project included in that bill and because of its importance to Florida.

I want to focus the rest of my time here on a new problem that emerged just last Friday. It deals with the discharges from Lake Okeechobee. As I mentioned, these discharges—the water being released—have been ongoing since January of this year, and what the discharges do is lower the salinity levels and cause the algae to bloom.

Just when you think you have had enough problems to deal with on this, the Federal Government came out of nowhere last Friday and threw in another wrench. The Obama administration, through the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, "recommended" that the South Florida Water Management District force more water from the north into that lake that is already releasing too much water, and they did so in order to protect 10 snail kite bird nests—10 bird nests.

If the local water district does not comply with this "recommendation," the Federal Government has threatened to sue them. As I have just covered, the Lake Okeechobee discharges are part of the problem. Yet here come Federal regulators from a completely different department asking for more discharges. And why? To protect 10 bird nests.

In Florida, we love our wildlife. We love our Florida panthers. We love our dolphins. We love our manatees. If you drive across the State, I can't tell you how many animals you will see on people's license plates because Florida's Department of Motor Vehicles provides many options for people to show just how much they love and support the different animals, the flora and fauna that our State has. In fact, I am one of those people with one of those plates. I have an alligator on mine, although it is the University of Florida Gator.

We love our wildlife in Florida, but when you have situations and conflicts like this one, you are essentially trying to figure out whose side to be on: 10 bird nests of a species with numbers on the rise or millions of Treasure Coast residents and the marine life that inhabits those waters? The answer should be clear. Stop the discharges and side with the millions of people on the

Treasure Coast. But the Federal Government is clearly not on their side.

What the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is demanding is truly beyond comprehension, and it is an example of a Federal bureaucracy run amok. If the local water district does as the Federal Government demands and releases held water into Lake Okeechobee, the Army Corps of Engineers is going to be forced to increase discharges into the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries.

These regulatory decisions are having a real impact on Floridians, on our ecology, on our economy, and on our very way of life up and down the Treasure Coast. I asked the Director of Fish & Wildlife, as well as the Secretary of the Interior, to immediately reverse this harmful, tone-deaf instruction that, if they implement it, will only prolong the ecological crisis along the Florida waterways.

Just admit that this makes no sense—no sense at all. Reverse this order, and let's focus on everything else we need to be doing on this algae issue and that we were focused on before the Federal Government decided to create yet another problem to deal with.

TRIBUTE TO EMILY BOUCK

Mr. President, on a third and final topic, today I would like to acknowledge a valued and long-term member of my Senate office who recently left our office. Emily Bouck has been on our team for nearly 7 years. She started as an intern on my 2010 Senate campaign and then came here to the Senate, proving herself, taking on every challenge asked of her, and ultimately helping me develop higher education and health care policies.

Among the many issues that Emily handled for us, she worked tirelessly on the Zika issue and finding a way to help those afflicted with it. Everyone in my office has come to trust Emily's expertise. That is why she will be missed. We thank her for her service to our office and to the people of Florida, and we truly wish her the very best.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

WASTEFUL SPENDING

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, it is time once again for the waste of the week. This is "Waste of the Week" No. 48. For 48 weeks I have been coming to the Senate floor during this Senate session, a 2-year session, talking about the waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer money. The ever-growing need to tackle our soaring debt has been brought to our attention once again this week by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

On Tuesday, the budget office released its long-term Federal budget update, and it is not pretty. Once again, CBO bluntly told Congress that we need to reduce the Federal debt as soon as possible. How many times do they have to send a report here saying: Look, the house is on fire; you have to do something about it. I say, once again—but I can say once again, once again, once again, once again, once again—the Congressional Budget Office is nonpartisan. It is not Republican; it is not Democrat; it is not liberal; it is not conservative. These guys deal with numbers, and the numbers don't lie.

You don't have to be a math genius to figure out that we are spending far more than we take in, and we have to borrow against that.

Just under this administration, we have nearly doubled from \$10.7 trillion of national debt to almost \$20 trillion of national debt. This is the legacy the President wants to carry? You never hear him talk about this. You never hear this mentioned.

Oh, ObamaCare is the best thing that has ever happened in the world. If you have been listening to the disaster that is rolling out under ObamaCare and the premiums that have doubled and the copays that have tripled and the exemptions that have been lost and all kinds of things happening to people in America here today under this flawed Federal program, you would understand this. We are talking about a budget out of control, spending out of control.

I have been a part of efforts to deal with this on a macro basis. All of those have failed, and they failed because the President of the United States has refused to come to a conclusion in working with us. Oh, he made some attempts to do it. He made some nice statements, but in the end it was always: Can't go there.

I decided I would at least try to point out documented issues of waste, fraud, and abuse. The very least we can do is stop this kind of spending. We have totaled up a pretty good total here. We are approaching \$250 billion of documented waste, fraud, and abuse.

CBO projects that the combined Social Security trust funds will be exhausted by 2029—5 years earlier than the Social Security trustees estimated a little bit ago—forcing automatic benefit cuts on seniors and people with disabilities. Let me repeat that: forcing automatic cuts to seniors and those with disabilities.

Do you hear Senators talking about the fact that we are going to have to do this? No, I don't hear this on the floor. Do you hear the President talking about this? No, let's pass this on—2029, I mean, that is way in the distance. Why do we need to worry about that now?

That is what they were saying when the debt was \$10.7 trillion. That is what they were saying when the debt was \$5 trillion: We can do this later. Well, the clock is ticking. Is anybody out there listening? Hello, hello. We are on the road to insolvency, and your elected representatives and your President aren't doing anything about it.

As you can tell, I get pretty worked up about this. I am down to some of the small stuff, pointing out: Can't we at least do this? Can't we at least come together as a Senate and as a House of Representatives, and can't we at least eliminate the waste, the documented fraud, the abuse of programs?

I am now on week No. 48. I have a card here that details all of the issues we have done. It keeps adding up and adding up, and I am only scratching

the surface. I can be down here every day, maybe every hour of every day the Senate is in session, talking about a waste of the week.

What the CBO puts out, what the Government Accountability Office puts out, what independent agencies put out—we can do 24-hour filibusters and just rack one up after another. This is your Federal Government in action. The tragedy is these are the tax dollars that you work hard for every week and that you send to Washington, and you want them responsibly used.

Yes, of course, we have to fund the military. Yes, we want to take care of the veterans. We want to take care of our national security. We are a threat now from ISIS; we are a threat from terrorists around the world, some of them domestic. We want police forces, we want intelligence, and we want all those entities that are involved in keeping us safe. We need to fund those agencies.

What about medical research? What about disease control? We are talking about Ebola. We are talking about Zika. We are talking about a number of things that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention deals with in Atlanta.

How about education? How about roads? How about sewers? How about waterlines? How about the raft of things that require spending in order to keep our Nation healthy, in order to keep our Nation functioning, in order to make us competitive in the world?

All of that is at risk. All of that is at risk because our entitlements keep growing out of control. No one is saying there is a fire on the way. It is growing, not diminishing, and you are not calling the fire department out to deal with this issue.

Let me get to the essence of this recent issue here. Remember the Lifeline program? That is the program that provides people of lower means, perhaps some in rural areas, a lifeline so that they can call 911. There has been some documentation that some people can't afford this. The President came along, and they call it the Obama Phone program now. It is advertised—I think it is a private advertisement, but it is a government-sponsored legislative program, and it is contracted out. Free cell phone—the government pays for your wireless service—free phone, free minutes, free enrollment, no payment ever.

This well-intended program was to provide people a lifeline in case of an emergency—the ability to dial 9-1-1. This lifeline is important to low-income earners who couldn't afford a phone. That program has some benefits and is something that maybe we ought to do, but we ought to put controls on it to make sure the program is not abused.

Initially, this program helped low-income families pay for landline phone service, but landline, as you know, is out of date. I doubt if any of these pages even know what a landline is

since they have grown up in the cell phone era. It happened just a few years after I came to the Senate. This program—like almost every other program the government sponsors—is well-intended but runs amok because of mismanagement, misuse of the law, misinterpretation, abuse, waste, and people taking advantage of it.

Under the Obama administration, the cost and number of beneficiaries in this program have skyrocketed, and with this increase came a number of issues.

The inspector general for the Federal Communications Commission, which is called the FCC, which administers this program that they contract out, did a study. They noted that prior to 2012, it was, as they said, "well known" that some individuals were receiving duplicative benefits or receiving benefits despite their eligibility for those benefits." For instance, there was supposed to be one phone made available per home, one per family, if they couldn't afford one. They found home addresses with dozens of phones and handing them out. There were posters like this that said: Get your free phone. People were grabbing them up as fast as they could. Word got out on the street that you can get a free phone line and the government will pay for it—yet another program the government is going to take care of. Well intended, yes, but there was a public outcry when stuff like this came out here. People said: What is the deal? I thought the phone was for emergency purposes. I thought we needed one per household to give them the opportunity to call 9-1-1 when needed, or if it was a single person—or a couple who needed a phone, maybe they should share it.

The inspector general said that the one-per-household rule wasn't working very well, and so the FCC apparently implemented a policy that basically said subscribers could override the eligibility for this because maybe these people need more than one cell phone.

The IG has learned that abuse within this program is more widespread than anybody previously believed.

First, the IG learned that, as I said, the FCC instructed employees to override the computer system that prohibits more than one applicant per household.

Second, the FCC—on the form that you have to send in—basically said: All the subscribers need to do is provide a check in the box that says the applicant is eligible. But multiple applications came in from the same address, and no one asked, as the law required, applicants to provide any supporting documentation. The IG found that this override option was also enabling subscribers to use fake names and fake Social Security numbers to avoid detection. How many times have I been down here talking about fake names, stolen IDs, and stolen Social Security numbers that were used to obtain Federal benefits with no oversight?

The IG noted that between October 2014 and April 2016, nearly 4.3 million

people enrolled in the Lifeline Program by overriding the internal eligibility controls. That is more than 35 percent of all subscribers and accounts, and that rivals the population of the entire State of Oregon. These aren't people who needed phones; these are people who overrode it so they could get as many phones as they wanted.

Obviously our Washington bureaucrats have not been good stewards of our taxpayer dollars. Sadly, this is not the end of the story. It is important to note that the IG is still in the process of reviewing these egregious actions to determine just how widespread the problem is.

In the meantime, what I am calling for here on the Senate floor is that the FCC stop allowing people to enroll in the Lifeline Program through the override process and to verify every single beneficiary so that we can weed out the bad actors. Whether you are in private business or the government, is that what you would expect? If you are selling or distributing a product—and in this case, distributing a product based on taxpayer dollars—don't you think you would want to, No. 1, adhere to the law, and No. 2, adhere to the regulations and not have some kind of arbitrary override, especially when you have stuff like this on the street and people are gobbling up free service on cell phones by the millions? What is the total? The total we can project for unverified Obama Phone beneficiaries is \$4.76 billion over the course of unverified Obama phone applicants.

I am not here to say this program should be abolished. I understand why people need to have a phone in their household for an emergency purpose. If they qualify under the eligibility criteria, I am OK with that, but if they are abusing the program, I am not OK with that at all, and I guarantee that the American taxpayer is not willing to accept that. They did not send us here to stand by, as responsible U.S. Senators, and watch this kind of abuse go on and on and on, and this Senator has barely scratched the surface in an effort to document waste, fraud, and abuse.

We now have \$239-plus billion of documented fraud, waste, and abuse by accountable government agencies, and it is totally unacceptable.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

IRAN

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, as we leave Washington for our summer recess, we are also marking the 1-year anniversary of the signing of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, JCPOA, by the P5+1. A number of my colleagues have come to the floor to mark this occasion, led by our friend and colleague, Senator COONS of Delaware. This nuclear agreement provides profoundly important time to hold Iran accountable—time that is supremely valuable but only if we use it wisely. That lesson should animate the con-

versation around the country, as well as in this Chamber, that time must be used wisely, energetically, and aggressively to make sure that we prevent a nuclear-armed Iran and also stop its funding and support for terrorist extremism.

We must use the time provided for us by this agreement to confront Iran's malign activities beyond its nuclear program, to fortify the security of the United States and Israel, our major strategic partner in the region, and to ensure that we are working in close coordination with this all-important ally. We must make sure that our positions are aligned when they need to be, that there is no space, no daylight between Israel and the United States where we must and should be working together.

We need to enhance strong enforcement of the JCPOA, our nuclear agreement, with the P5+1 to ensure that Iran is never able to break across the enrichment threshold to obtain a nuclear weapon.

The simple, stark fact is that we are at war with ISIS—whatever it is called; ISIL or by any other name—and we are in that war to win. We must win it. The fact is that we are succeeding, but ISIS is also enhancing its activity as it metastasizes with extremist violence sponsored, supported, and inspired around the world—in Europe, as well as in this country in San Bernardino and Orlando—where massacres are stated to be in alignment with and supported and inspired by ISIS, and where ISIS itself is claiming credit for those activities.

In the Middle East, Iran continues to be a leading state sponsor of terrorism. Irrespective of the nuclear agreement, we must work together to find new ways to push back on Iran's financing of terrorism. Just recently, the international financial action task force made the alarming decision to suspend countermeasures against Iran for 12 months concerning its money-laundering and terrorist-finding activities. This action is truly appalling, as I have made clear in a letter that I wrote and led to our Treasury Secretary, Jack Lew, with seven of my Senate colleagues urging him to address this dangerous decision to prevent any further attempts to reintegrate Iran into the international banking system as Iran has not eliminated its entrenched practice of financing terrorism.

Again, time is only as valuable as we make it. We must use the time we have under this agreement to separate Iran from its terror proxies, such as Hezbollah and the Assad regime. That is why I also support the Senate moving to extend the Iran Sanctions Act.

Now is the time to call Iran to account for and identify and target the specific individuals and entities engaged in terrorist financing, human rights violations, and fueling the tragic Syrian conflict that has killed so many innocent people and separated so many from their homes, particularly children whom I have seen in one of the refugee camps in Jordan.

Each year, as part of the current tenure or memorandum of understanding on the U.S. military assistance with Israel, we provide Israel with more than \$3 billion in aid. As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I have been fighting to ensure that this year's Defense bill will fund Israel's missile defense programs and will continue to do so as we enter the conference with the House on the NDAA, which we will do shortly. Our goal has to be to reach the \$601 million that has been authorized. I am hopeful we will do so. I will fight to make sure that the conference committee report includes that number.

While I know these annual increases for missile programs are vital to our defense cooperation, we really need a long-term agreement to defend Israel against threats in an uncertain regional environment and to ensure its qualitative military edge over Iran or any other adversary.

We need to use this time to renew a robust, decade-long memorandum of understanding on U.S. military assistance, or MOU, with Israel as soon as possible. I am hopeful that the MOU will be concluded as quickly as possible. Indeed, last November Senator BENNET and I co-led a letter to the President concerning the need to renew this MOU, and I followed up in April with another letter by Senators COONS and GRAHAM, a bipartisan effort on the same issue.

The MOU needs a historic increase in military aid. And one other point. I know that much of that assistance is used in the United States to make equipment, like the Joint Strike Fighter, whose engines are manufactured in Connecticut, but Israel should also retain some flexibility to use these funds to develop its own unique capabilities. The current MOU allows Israel to harness 26.3 percent of our security assistance to purchase domestic Israeli equipment, and I urge the administration to work to maintain this goal in the next MOU. We must rely on American manufacturing and American jobs where there is value added and whenever possible, but Israel has the same interest in its production capacity and its defense industrial base, and both must be strong and aligned.

As I look forward to the year coming and to the enforcement of the nuclear agreement, I believe we must, very frankly, do a better job of enforcement, as I am positive that Iran will test us and seek any advantage it can find. That is the stark, simple truth about that agreement.

This administration and any President who follows must harness the tools provided in the nuclear agreement to know what Iran is doing and bring transparency that will push back Iran's breakout time and deter any failure of compliance. The IAEA must be fully funded, and we must have more inspectors on the ground to keep an eye on Iran's facilities. The best agreement in the world is meaningless if it

is unenforced. I know that from my own background as a law enforcer for most of my professional career. The law is dead letter if it is not enforced effectively and aggressively, with the credibility that deters violation.

As we move past the 1-year mark, the United States must strengthen enforcement actions against Iran. We must do everything possible to hold Iran accountable, and that action must include passing the Iran Policy Oversight Act—legislation led by my distinguished colleague Senator CARDIN, the ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, and I am an original cosponsor of it and helped to draft and lead it. It will strengthen and improve the nuclear agreement—in no way contradicting or undermining it—by providing vital oversight and vigorous enforcement to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran.

It addresses three preeminent priorities—steps that are well within Congress's power, its proper authority, and its control. First, it enshrines in our law that our policy on deterrence remains in effect and that all options, including military options, remain on the table. Second, this bill reaffirms our dedication to countering Iranian terrorism, as well as Iranian human rights violations and its regional influence that may perniciously undermine the stability of the area by providing a regional strategy and strong sanctions. Third, the bill empowers our allies—especially Israel, our key strategic partner in the Middle East—to counter Iran and its terror proxies by authorizing the President to provide Israel with additional military aid, intelligence cooperation, and missile defense codevelopment.

This nuclear agreement, the JCPOA, provides us time. It is valuable time if we use it to stop a nuclear Iran, but it is only as valuable as we make it. That fact bears repeating, as I have repeated it again and again. The time must be used to support Israel with a historic increase of military aid and push for strong enforcement of this agreement to set back the clock on Iran's apparently ceaseless nuclear ambition.

I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues and the administration on these issues in the time to come. My hope is that this effort will continue to be, as it has been very earnestly, a bipartisan effort. We can never allow partisan differences to come between us on this issue. There should be no space between us across the aisle, and there should be none between Israel and the United States in seeking to stop a nuclear-armed Iran, seeking to halt its sponsorship of terrorism that endangers us both as nations seeking to advance common interests where we have them and where our vital national strategic goals align.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING SENIOR CORPORAL LORNE AHRENS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I wanted to speak for just a few moments this afternoon about how the tragedy in Dallas touched many in Alaska, particularly the bedroom community of Eagle River, AK, just outside of Anchorage. Among the five law enforcement heroes who were murdered last Thursday was Senior Corporal Lorne Ahrens of the Dallas Police Department. His father, William, and his stepmother, Sue, live in Eagle River. Last Friday morning Bill and Sue became members of a very exclusive fraternity that no law enforcement family ever wishes to join, and that is the fraternity of families who have lost an officer in the line of duty.

Lorne never lived in Alaska. He did visit on several occasions. He grew up in Southern California. He served with the L.A. County Sheriff's Department and then with the Dallas Police Department. But if you read the accounts of the articles in the Alaska papers—not only in the Alaska Dispatch News over the weekend but in the Juneau Empire yesterday—the accounts of Lorne and his story and his connection with Alaska, one would have assumed that he was one of ours, that he was an Alaskan. I think it just spoke to the loss, and the tragedy we all saw last Thursday reminded us that we are truly one community in so many ways.

Bill and Sue Ahrens attend the Anchorage Baptist Temple. When they heard the news that Bill's son had been killed in Dallas, this church community truly opened their arms and they opened their hearts to support the family not only over that difficult weekend but really to provide them what any church community would do, what any broader community would do—to provide them that support. One can certainly understand that the grief is almost insupportable.

Lorne Ahrens was a huge guy, if you follow the descriptions in the paper, a big guy, a former semi-pro football player. He was a smart cop with a big heart, is what they said. His stature made people feel that he was almost invincible. But as much as we might not want to believe it, our law enforcement heroes are not invincible. They put on the badge in the morning, they kiss their wives and their kids, and then they enter a world that is entirely unpredictable and, unfortunately, increasingly dangerous.

Lorne's wife Katrina is a detective with the Dallas Police Department. She understands this problem more than most, but, really, how do you explain it to your children—in this case, their children, Sorcha, who is just 10 years old, and their son Magnus, age 8.

Fortunately, Katrina, Magnus, Sorcha, Bill, and Sue will not be alone.

The law enforcement community closes ranks to support survivors and their children at the local and the national levels. There is a wonderful organization known as Concerns of Police Survivors that comes in and enters the family's lives. It doesn't make everything all right, but hopefully it will help.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund will work with the Dallas Police Department and the family to honor Lorne's memory in perpetuity just a few blocks away from here on Judiciary Square.

Since coming to the Senate, I have actually grown pretty close to the folks who maintain the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. I have gone to the candlelight vigils during National Police Week, and I have read the names of fallen officers from the State of Alaska. My staff has decorated the memorial with commemorative items that were sent by departments and family members who could not make it to Washington for the candlelight vigil. We have sent pencil etchings back to the Alaskan families and to the departments. I have driven down to Alexandria to meet with the families of the fallen at the annual Concerns of Police Survivors Conference. Their cause is my cause. This has become quite personal to me.

Next May, the name of Lorne Ahrens will be inscribed on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, and I am pretty certain that Bill and Sue will be invited to travel to Washington to participate in the observance, and I hope to welcome them here on Capitol Hill, along with Katrina, Sorcha, and Magnus. Communities throughout the Nation are grieving the loss of Lorne Ahrens as well as his four colleagues from the Dallas Police Department this week. It becomes even more personal to the communities with which they are connected, where they lived, where they called home—in Lorne's case, his home community of Burleson, TX, the city of Dallas, Los Angeles County, CA, and, yes, in faraway smaller places like Eagle River in Alaska.

As we recognize Senior Corporal Lorne Ahrens, know that the people of Alaska stand with the Ahrens family at this very difficult time and throughout their lives because he truly was one of ours.

BREE'S LAW

Mr. President, I would like to bring up a matter that oftentimes people would just assume not have a discussion about; that is, abusive relationships that unfortunately we see with young people and teenagers. All across this country, teenagers and young adults are victims of abuse in their relationships. There is no part of the country where we don't see this. According to some research, more than 1 million high school boys and girls admit to being physically abused by their boyfriend or girlfriend. One in three teens will be in an abusive or unhealthy relationship that includes

sexual, physical, verbal, or emotional abuse. One in three teens reports knowing friends who were abused, but most don't know how to intervene. Only one-third of the teens reported their experiences to anyone, not even their parents.

We are not just talking about those who are 18 years old. Nearly two-thirds of young people between the ages of 11 and 14 who have been in a relationship have been verbally abused by people who are supposed to care for them. One in three teenagers has been hit, punched, slapped, kicked, or choked by someone who is supposed to care about them.

Research also tells us that teens who are abused in dating relationships are more likely to succumb to post-traumatic stress disorder, alcoholism, eating disorders, suicidal thoughts, and even violent behavior. Yet, over 80 percent of parents don't know that teen dating violence is an issue that affects young people from all backgrounds, all parts of the country, and children who are not even old enough yet to be called a teenager. It is often much harder for teens to leave an abusive relationship than for adults because they often don't know how they can access resources or that resources exist at all.

As a parent, this is hard for me. I think it is hard for all parents. We try to do everything we possibly can to keep our children safe as they are growing up. We make sure we buckle the seatbelt when they are little kids. We put them in the infant seat. We teach them how to safely cross the street. We make them wear bike helmets, and we teach them about stranger danger. But, again, one in two teens somehow or another ends up in an abusive relationship.

Statistics are one thing, but the experiences of real Americans inform our work in the Senate every day, far more than just the mere numbers of statistics. Today I would like to tell you about a beautiful young woman who has inspired a bill I have introduced. This is a young woman by the name of Breanna Richelle Moore. Breanna went by the name of Bree.

Bree was a strong, engaging, happy, accomplished young woman. She excelled in all kinds of sports—in swimming, track and field, volleyball, and many other sports. Her school offered a Japanese immersion program, so at the age of 5, she started to learn to read and write and speak Japanese. She was an accomplished flute player. She sang beautifully at many public events across the city of Anchorage. She was really the quintessential Alaskan woman.

In addition to her athletics and her artistic talents, the girl could hunt, she could fish, ride a dirt bike and snow machine better than most boys, and when they broke down, she could even fix them. She did well in school. She volunteered to nurse sick, abandoned, and dying pets. She worked her way up from being a dental hygienist

assistant to the dentist's assistant, and she was about to change her major in college to pre-med. She was motivated, funny, and she was happy. Everywhere she went, her friends would say Bree "saw the good in everyone, spreading happiness wherever she went, and had the gift to make everyone else a better person."

But Bree was also in an abusive relationship. On June 26, 2014, her boyfriend shot and killed her. She was 20 years old. That same year, Alaska was ranked No. 1 in the Nation for the rate of women murdered by men—over twice the national average. This is not a statistic in Alaska we are proud of.

After her death, three of Bree's co-workers said they knew she was being abused. She came to work a couple times with a black eye. They also said: We didn't know what to do or whom to call—if there was just something we could have done. They and Bree's parents will be forever haunted by the knowledge that they did not understand or act on the signs of dating abuse and violence that took this marvelous young woman's life.

In the 2 years since Bree's death, her parents have learned Bree's relationship with her boyfriend was an absolute textbook case of dating violence, but those closest to her didn't know what was happening or, if they did know, if they had the sneaking suspicion, they just didn't know what to do about it.

Bree Moore was a young woman who was destined to make a difference, and while her life was tragically cut short, she continues to make a difference. Bree continues to make a difference. Last year, the Alaska Legislature passed a provision in law entitled "Bree's Law." It mandates that every school across Alaska teach dating violence and abuse awareness and prevention in grades 7 through 12. The bill was controversial. I recognize that. Many wondered how school districts would pay for adopting the curriculum and providing the courses, but they made it through the controversy and that bill passed and is now signed into law.

In December of last year in Washington, DC, the Every Student Succeeds Act was enacted. A provision within that law allows schools to use their Safe and Healthy Students funding to "improve instructional practices for developing relationship-building skills, such as effective communication, and improve safety through the recognition and prevention of coercion, violence, or abuse, including teen and dating violence, stalking, domestic abuse, and sexual violence and harassment."

I have come to the floor to honor a young woman from Alaska. I come to the floor to speak about the legislation I have introduced that would rename that provision within the Every Student Succeeds Law after Bree Moore. My bill would allow, not require, schools, parents, teens, everyone to

call this provision of Federal law Bree's Law, and the programs and activities funded by it Bree's Law programs and Bree's Law activities.

Bree Moore was a young woman who every father and mother, every sister and brother, every friend, and every employer could be proud of. She was bright, funny, and she was motivated to help the less fortunate. She was accomplished. She was devoted.

It is fitting that those who loved and respected Bree should see her life honored in this way. It is right that the U.S. Congress honor her in this way, and by doing so, make a further commitment to protecting young women and men from dating abuse and violence in the years to come.

It is fitting to know that as the young people of Alaska learn how to recognize, prevent, avoid, and act on dating violence, that they remember and honor Bree Moore and that they learn from her, that all the good Bree represents goes on to inspire and help future generations.

Like Amber Hagerman, who was the 9-year-old abducted and murdered in 1996, for whom the Amber Alert System is named, it is fitting that young people across the country have the opportunity to know that the U.S. Congress believes so strongly in their future that they would take this opportunity to name a provision of Federal law after Bree Moore.

With that, Mr. President, 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. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO KIM CARTER

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I would like to recognize Kim Carter of Hot Springs as this week's Arkansan of the Week, for her commitment to ensuring Arkansas' children have the love and support they deserve. Kim is a foster parent in Hot Springs, and with her family has spent over a decade helping nearly three dozen children, but her support for Arkansas' children does not end there. Kim is also the director of Camp Tanako in Hot Springs, a local church camp.

Under her leadership and direction, Kim has helped the camp expand its reach tremendously. Each year, dozens of area children are able to participate in Camp Tanako's various summer programs. Recently, Kim also started a day camp for local children to attend in the summer, which has also been a huge success.

For those who know her, Kim is known as Momma Kim, and hearing their stories, it is not hard to see why. According to her friends and neighbors, Kim's impact on children cannot be overstated. Whether it is her own children, one of her many foster children,

friends of her own children, or campers and camp staff, everyone seems to have a story about Kim.

Kim's dedication to Arkansas' children is inspiring, and her compassionate spirit is a living example of the close-knit and caring community we have across our great State. I am pleased to recognize Kim Carter as this week's Arkansan of the Week and join all Arkansans in thanking her for committing her life to making the lives of children in Arkansas brighter.

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.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. It looks as though we are here at the end of the day. The State of Alaska is well represented. I appreciate that.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1915

Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill that Senators AYOTTE, BOOKER, and others have worked on to ensure that first responders are equipped to deal with anthrax threats. It is my understanding that this bill was cleared early on both sides of the aisle because of the hard work of Senators AYOTTE and BOOKER.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 458, S. 1915. I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn, the Ayotte substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the title amendment be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we would be happy to pass this bill as soon as the Republicans schedule and pass a bill to close the terror gun loophole. In that I don't see that is going to happen in the next little bit, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEBT LEGISLATION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, the total outstanding Federal debt has risen by more than \$8.7 trillion during Presi-

dent Obama's tenure, to almost \$19.4 trillion today.

That is the highest level of Federal debt in U.S. history and, relative to the size of the economy, is at a level not seen since the years surrounding World War II. Such debt levels pose significant risks to financial stability and the economy, as the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has repeatedly made clear for many years now.

Unfortunately, President Obama's failure to address the debt leaves those risks in place and leaves a legacy of burden on future generations, who will be saddled with almost twice as much Federal debt today than when the President took office.

According to CBO projections, Federal deficits and debt are on an upward trajectory. As we all know, the main drivers of our debt are entitlement programs that are, at this point, essentially on autopilot.

As the Nation confronts its astronomical debt, it is imperative that those charged with managing the debt do so with transparency and accountability. I am sure that all of my colleagues agree that, if we are going to saddle future workers with outsized debt, then, at the very least, Congress and the American people are entitled to know how debt management decisions are made.

That, of course, requires the cooperation of the U.S. Treasury Department, as well as its fiscal agents at the Federal Reserve. As our debt has exploded, the Federal Reserve has simultaneously ballooned its balance sheet, in part by increasing its holdings of U.S. debt securities by nearly \$2 trillion since President Obama took office. Like it or not, what the Fed does with its debt purchases and holdings carries many implications for the Treasury debt market.

At the same time, both Treasury and the Fed have been unacceptably opaque regarding federal debt management practices, cash management, and contingency planning. This has been a pattern that has repeated itself over and over under the Obama administration.

When we have approached the Federal debt limit, the Obama Treasury has repeatedly withheld vital information.

When the U.S. sovereign credit rating was downgraded for the very first time in 2011, Treasury, the Fed, and other financial regulators withheld vital information.

When members of Congress have asked Treasury, the Fed, and other agencies for contingency plans for dealing with any kind of default resulting from any number of causes, they have withheld vital information.

When members of Congress have simply needed to know the amount of the Federal Government's operating cash balance—which is managed by Treasury—the Obama administration has withheld that vital information.

For years now, since at least 2011, I have, as either the Chairman or Rank-

ing Member of the Senate committee with oversight jurisdiction over the management of our debt, repeatedly requested basic information about our Nation's finances and, at almost every turn, have been stonewalled. Often, the stonewalling has come with the excuse that the information I have been seeking is "market sensitive," an ironic designation given that much of the information I and others have been seeking has been shared with large financial institutions—actual participants in the markets.

Let me get a little more specific.

Beginning almost exactly five years ago—in July of 2011—I began asking the administration for information regarding contingency plans formulated by Treasury, the Fed, and other agencies that would outline what they would do in the event of delayed payments, a default, or a credit-rating downgrade.

I made my initial request in the weeks surrounding the debate over the debt limit in 2011 when there was clear evidence that various agencies had formulated these kind of contingency plans. In addition, I asked questions about how much cash was in the till at Treasury, and how much they were projecting would be available in future days and weeks.

Rather than giving a full and fair accounting to Congress and the American people, the administration withheld this vital information and, instead, opted to engage in a political battle over the statutory debt limit, apparently believing that their position in that debate would be strengthened if lawmakers and their constituents were unaware of the fiscal state of the country or what plans were in place.

Before anyone jumps to the conclusion that my inquiries were politically motivated and that I was trying to strengthen the hand of congressional Republicans in debt-limit debates, let me be clear: my requests for contingency plans were not and have not been limited to debt limit impasses.

Instead, I have sought to find out what Treasury and others would do if timely payments could not be made for any reason.

Delayed payments could occur under a variety of circumstances, not only in the event of a debt-limit impasse. A cyberattack, a terrorist attack, a prolonged power outage in financial centers, or a natural disaster could all result in delayed payments. While any such event would surely be catastrophic, they are all within the realm of possibility. Quite frankly, it would be imprudent risk management and, really, fiscal malpractice to not plan for those types of contingencies.

Indeed, we know that agencies in the Federal Government have made such plans, in consultation with representatives of large financial institutions—or, as my friends on the other side would say: Wall Street.

We know they have developed these plans because investigations and subpoenas issued by the House Financial

Services Committee have made clear that Treasury, the Fed, and Wall Street are routinely engaged in contingency planning and have been doing so for the entire time I have been submitting my inquiries.

Frankly, if no contingency plans existed, the American people would have ample cause to be concerned—if not completely outraged—at the recklessness of our debt managers. Given that we know these plans exist, however, they should be similarly outraged and concerned with the fact that the administration refuses to share any relevant information about the plans.

Rather than reveal pertinent information to Congress and the American people, Treasury and the Fed have continually insisted on keeping the plans secret, usually refusing to acknowledge they even exist.

I have received the same basic response to all of my inquiries. To paraphrase, I have been told that we should never default on our debt because of the debt limit and that Congress has an obligation to make sure the debt-limit is always raised, without discussion, in order to prevent such a default.

However, once again, delayed payments could result in a variety of scenarios, and a debt-limit impasse is just one of them.

The reason for this lack of transparency is simple: Leaders in the Obama administration clearly believe that their political position in a debate over a debt-limit increase will be stronger if the American public believes that they don't have any plans for dealing with delayed payments or a default.

This secrecy with regard to such a serious matter of public interest is simply absurd, bordering on embarrassing, and the American people deserve better.

Enough is enough.

Yesterday, I sent letters to the Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve, once again asking for more information about how the country's debt and cash-balance information is being handled.

In addition, I introduced a bill titled The Debt Management and Fiscal Responsibility Act.

This is a nonpartisan bill, and I welcome members from both sides of the aisle to sign on as cosponsors. The aim of the bill is simple: to provide greater accountability on the nation's debt, contingency planning for debt disruptions, and a more certain debt limit process.

Specifically, the bill takes the existing, opaque, and chaotic process followed by Treasury and others as they manage the Federal debt, and replaces it with a transparent, consistent, and constructive process. It requires greater information sharing between federal regulators and Congress with regard to the debt, along with more administrative accountability for debt management practices. In addition, the legislation provides a more orderly and in-

formed process for dealing with periods during which our debt approaches the statutory limit.

The bill also establishes a requirement that the Treasury Secretary report to and appear before Congress whenever a statutory debt limit is impending, to work and communicate with Congress in order to responsibly address the debt, and to make Treasury's information on the debt readily available to the public in a single online repository.

If enacted, this legislation will bring Treasury, Congress, and the American people together on equal informational footing to ensure that Federal debt and fiscal management occurs in the open, where everyone shares the same information.

After all, if, as we have repeatedly been told by Secretary Lew, Treasury has "the best information" when it comes to the state of our debt, then policymakers outside the Executive Branch, as well as the American people, should have access to that same information.

Once again, our current debt of nearly \$19.4 trillion is outsized in absolute terms and relative to the size of our economy. It is a threat to our government, our financial system, and our economy.

I don't know anyone without a political ax to grind who believes differently.

We cannot continue to roll the dice with the future of our children and grandchildren.

One of the first steps we can take toward fiscal sustainability is greater transparency and accountability from those in the Federal Government that we have assigned to be agents of the American people for management of our fiscal affairs.

The Debt Management and Fiscal Responsibility Act enables that accountability and transparency, and will help put an end to the politicization of debt management and to the ongoing practice of selective disclosure of vital debt information.

Put simply, it will give Congress and the American people a clear-eyed account of the debt so that we can focus on returning public finances to a more solid long-term path.

I hope all of my colleagues will support this important legislation.

SULLIVAN MOTION TO INSTRUCT NDAA CONFEREES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I supported the junior Senator from Alaska's motion to instruct the National Defense Authorization Act conferees. The motion is generally consistent with the administration's force structure proposals for Afghanistan, Europe, the Pacific, and the Middle East. It also is consistent with last year's bipartisan budget agreement. The motion does not appropriate additional funding above the agreed upon spending caps, nor does it violate the parity

principle on which that agreement was based, which ensures that the middle class will be treated at least as fairly as the Pentagon. President Obama and congressional Democrats remain committed to that principle, and we will continue to insist that Republicans keep their promises and honor our agreement.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAESARS PALACE LAS VEGAS HOTEL AND CASINO

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 50th anniversary of Caesars Palace Las Vegas Hotel and Casino.

Since it opened its doors on August 5, 1966, Caesars Palace has been a Las Vegas icon. Conceived by builder, designer, and hotel operator Jay Sarno, Caesars opened as an opulent 680-room Roman-themed fantasyland. Today Caesars Palace remains one of the world's most prestigious resorts. It is home to 14 restaurants, 3,980 rooms, 6 towers, a convention facility, and 630 suites and villas.

Filled with statues, columns, and iconography typical of Hollywood Roman period productions, Caesars Palace pioneered a new era of lavish casinos and resorts. It opened with a 3-day gala that included a stage production of "Rome Swings," starring Andy Williams and 1,400 guests. On December 31, 1967, the hotel and casino gained worldwide recognition when it served as the backdrop for Daredevil Evel Knievel's infamous attempt to jump over the iconic Caesars fountains. His son, Robbie Knievel, would later successfully clear the fountains on April 14, 1989. Throughout the last five decades, Caesars Palace has remained a leader in the entertainment industry, bringing the biggest names in music, celebrity chefs, luxury accommodations, premier shopping and gaming, and top sporting events to the heart of the Las Vegas Strip.

I love the sport of boxing, and I am proud that, in the late 1970s, Caesars Palace emerged as the premier venue for world championship boxing matches. It was the host for legendary matches between Hall of Famers: Thomas Hearns, Sugar Ray Leonard, Marvin Hagler, Larry Holmes, Evander Holyfield, Julio Cesar Chavez, Oscar De La Hoya, and "the Greatest of All Time," Muhammad Ali. Caesars Palace was instrumental in turning Las Vegas into the "Boxing Capital of the World." In fact, one of my most prized possessions is a signed photograph of the great Joe Louis, who was hired by Caesars later in his life as a casino host and greeter and whose marble statue still sits inside the casino.

Throughout the past 50 years, many of our world's top performers have graced the stages of Caesars Palace, including Tony Bennett, Jerry Lewis, Liberace, and Diana Ross. Headliners such as Celine Dion, Shania Twain, Rod Stewart, Bette Midler, Cher,

Mariah Carey, and Sir Elton John have held residency performances at the 4,300-seat colosseum. The hotel and casino also provided the backdrop to blockbuster movies.

I commend Caesars Palace for 50 years of exceptional service to the Las Vegas Strip. Caesars Palace has continuously evolved throughout the past five decades to remain a leader on the world famous Las Vegas Strip, and I wish them continued success for years to come.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Senate held another vote on moving to the Defense appropriations bill. This bill was reported from committee by a 30 to nothing vote, and it shows what can be accomplished if we work in a bipartisan manner. Unfortunately, the Senate majority has taken a turn away from bipartisanship since the bill was drafted.

I will speak more about my concerns with this move toward division and divisiveness in a moment. But first let me commend the chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Senator COCHRAN, for his leadership in producing this bill. He has been open to my proposals, and has also made a courageous stand against attempting to relitigate the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015.

Among the highlights of the bill include investments that strengthen our technology advantage, restore the readiness of the Armed Forces, and stabilize our defense industrial base.

Most importantly, this bill makes a strong statement in favor of defense medical research. It adds \$915 million in addition to the budget request for investigations into new drugs and therapies that could lead to breakthroughs in the treatment of diseases ranging from breast cancer, traumatic brain injury, Alzheimer's, prosthetics, and many other fields. This is an increase of 5 percent real growth compared to last year's bill.

The funding in this bill is small compared to the investments at the National Institutes of Health, but the results of defense medical research have touched the lives of countless numbers of servicemembers, their families, and have even spread into the civilian medical community. This funding makes a big impact in people's lives, and I am proud that our commitment to this research continues to grow each year.

The bill also recognizes the threat posed by ISIS. It fully funds the overseas contingency operations account to provide what our servicemembers need in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere in harm's way.

In this way, we disagree strongly with our House counterparts. The House bill provides only a portion of the funds necessary. We believe on a bipartisan basis that there should be no arbitrary cut-off date of funding for this Nation's fight against terrorism.

The U.S. and our allies are working to defeat ISIS on the ground in Iraq and Syria, and dismantle their international terror network. There is real progress on the ground. The President has built a coalition of 66 nations to fight ISIS. The terrorist group has almost half its territory in Iraq, and 20 percent of its territory in Syria. It has lost access to key sources of funds for its activities. The U.S. and its allies have killed tens of thousands of their fighters, as well as over 100 ISIS leaders.

This bill provides \$43.3 billion for DOD to fight Al Qaeda, the Taliban, and ISIS, including \$1.78 billion to continue this progress against ISIS by building the capacity of allies in Iraq, Syria, and the broader region.

We also must continue to prevent terrorism here at home through stronger homeland defenses and work with our allies to strengthen theirs—intelligence sharing and all the rest.

We have to have the entire Federal Government in this fight, from the Department of Homeland Security to the FBI, from the State Department to the Treasury Department. It cannot be DOD's fight alone.

People may be asking, since the Defense appropriations bill was approved by a committee vote of 30 to zero in May, why isn't the bill receiving a similar bipartisan vote in July? To find the answer, one need look no further than how the Republican majority has handled funding to combat the Zika virus.

On May 19, the Senate voted overwhelmingly, 68–30, to pass a \$1.1 billion package to respond to the threat of Zika. But in conference, a deal was cut without Democrats at the table that completely undermined the compromise proposal that was supported by the Senate.

There are only two explanations for how a bipartisan deal turned out so badly: maybe the negotiators on behalf of the Senate majority did not do a good job of representing the Senate's position. Or this was a case of legislative rope-a-dope, in which there was never an intention to follow through on a bipartisan compromise.

That brings us to the Defense appropriations bill. After the Senate caved once to unreasonable House proposals on the Zika bill, Democrats have sought assurances that we will have fair outcomes to negotiating other appropriations bills.

That simply means that Democrats should be at the table for conference negotiations, that these budget bills will have fair spending levels, and we avoid poison pills inserted by the House, such as cutting off funding for the fight against ISIL after just 6 months.

Sadly, the Republican majority has bristled at the idea of giving assurances that the fair process used in the Appropriations Committee to produce these budget bills will be allowed to continue.

Last year, when Republicans produced one-sided appropriations bills, Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter called these plays a "road to nowhere."

Absent a commitment by the Republican leadership to continue in a spirit of bipartisanship and compromise, it seems they have chosen once again to walk down that same road that leads to gridlock and stalemate.

It is disappointing and disheartening that an appropriations process that began on such a good note has taken a turn for the worse.

The Defense appropriations bill is a good bill. Democrats are simply seeking assurances from the Republican Leadership that the same spirit of compromise and bipartisanship that helped draft the bill will be restored after faith was broken with a one-sided, divisive approach to responding to the Zika virus.

I regret that the Republican leadership cannot give those assurances and therefore are putting an end to appropriations work this summer.

It is my sincere hope that, after the election, both Democrats and Republicans can return to working in good faith to produce a budget bill that includes this very good defense bill, as well as the 11 other appropriations bills that need to be passed before the year is done.

IRAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this month marks the 1-year anniversary of the nuclear deal reached between a number of world powers and Iran.

Let's take a moment to step back and recall where we were when President Obama took office.

Our intelligence community assessed that until 2003, Iran was working toward a nuclear bomb.

The reckless war in Iraq further empowered Iran. The country's hardliners moved forward at great speed building suspicious nuclear infrastructure. These efforts produced large and unsettling quantities of highly enriched uranium that could have been used for a nuclear weapon.

Such a weapon in the hands of the Iranian regime would have been an unacceptable risk to the region, to Israel, and to the world.

This is the mess President Obama inherited when he came to office; yet he pledged that Iran would not obtain a nuclear bomb on his watch.

And that is exactly what he did.

He negotiated a comprehensive deal in which Iran pledged to the world not to build a nuclear bomb and agreed to stringent inspections and terms to ensure that Iran keeps that pledge.

And this historic agreement was accomplished without drawing the United States into another war in the Middle East.

You see, despite all the naysayers and efforts to undermine this deal—including an unprecedented letter signed by most in the majority party to the

hardline Iranian Supreme Leader that aimed to undermine our own President's efforts to negotiate a deal—the agreement is working.

As the International Atomic Energy Agency has documented, Iran has shipped more than 8.5 tons, or 98 percent of its stockpile, of enriched uranium to Russia—enriched uranium that no longer poses a threat for use in a nuclear weapon; disabled more than 12,000 centrifuges used to enrich uranium; poured concrete into the core of a reactor at Arak designed to produce plutonium which can also be used to produce a nuclear weapon; removed all nuclear material from its once-secret nuclear facility at Fordow; and allowed comprehensive ongoing inspection by the IAEA to make sure Iran doesn't cheat.

So, instead of a runaway effort to create the fuel and infrastructure needed to build a nuclear bomb within a few months, Iran's ability to build a nuclear weapon is dramatically disabled.

Its breakout time is at least a year—and any effort to do so would almost certainly be caught quickly by the international community.

And equally important, a breach would make any military action against Iran that much easier for those in the international community to get behind.

As President Obama said earlier this year, the deal effectively “cut off every single path Iran could have used to build a bomb.”

In fact, former Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon under Prime Minister Netanyahu and harsh critic of diplomacy with Iran recently said that Iran's nuclear program, “has been frozen in light of the deal signed by the world powers and does not constitute an immediate, existential threat for Israel.”

When the nuclear deal was reached last year, I came early to the floor to announce my strong support for this agreement.

I noted that strong countries negotiate with their adversaries and have done so for generations, regardless of who was in the White House at the time, and agreements reached from talking with our enemies have had tremendous benefits to our national security.

The deal with Iran is no different.

Now, I know opponents of the deal, who have spent much of the last year looking for ways to undermine it despite its success, will justify further such efforts by saying Iran's other behavior is problematic.

Well, it is. It was before the nuclear agreement, and it continues to be, whether in Syria or Gaza or Yemen.

Iran continues to repress its own citizens internally, brazenly trying to keep reformers off Iranian election ballots and locking up those who peacefully urge greater freedoms.

But it does those actions without a nuclear weapon.

You see, just as President Kennedy negotiated with the Soviets when they

were threatening possible nuclear war with missiles in Cuba or just as President Nixon began to establish ties with China while it was supplying weapons to the North Koreans who were fighting American soldiers or just as President Reagan negotiated with the Soviet Union even though it was occupying Eastern Europe and fomenting violent revolutions around the world, there are times when such agreements serve our national interests and make the world a somewhat safer place.

This deal with Iran was never about all its genuinely troubling behavior in the region. It was about ending Iran's ability to rapidly or easily make a nuclear bomb.

And that is what it did.

I fully support ongoing efforts to address Iran's ballistic missile program, to halt its support for extremist groups in the region, to forcefully push back on its threats to Israel and other allies in the region.

But these efforts shouldn't be straw men to undermine the nuclear agreement.

And addressing these issues will be far easier without Iran having a nuclear umbrella.

There have been so many decades of mistrust between the United States and Iran.

I myself cannot forget what happened in 1979 when our embassy was seized and more than 60 Americans were held hostage for 444 days. There were mock executions and other inhumane acts. Anyone who is familiar with this story knows the pain these people and their families suffered.

And no one can forget the horrible threats made by some Iranian leaders against the Israeli people or denials of the Holocaust.

Israel has genuine security concerns about Iran. So do I.

But at the end of the day, I believe this agreement is the best way to take one of those concerns—an Iranian nuclear bomb—off the table.

It won't change Iranian behavior overnight, but in the long term, it also has the potential to empower the Iranian moderates—those who want a more open and internationally respected country.

So I want to thank this President and so many of my colleagues here in the Senate who defended this agreement. Quite simply, the dismantling of the Iranian nuclear threat is a remarkable historical achievement.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINA MULKA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, I want to say a few words about one of my most loyal and reliable aides, Christina Mulka. For nearly a decade, Christina worked in my office, most notably as press secretary and deputy communications director. Later this month, Christina will be moving to Detroit. To say we are going to miss her would be a gross understatement. If you ask my staff, they will tell you

they don't refer to their friend and colleague by her first name. Everyone calls her “Mulka.” There are a lot of Christinas on Capitol Hill, but only one Mulka.

Like many bright young people in Washington, DC, Christina began her career as an intern. In the spring of 2006, I got a call from former Massachusetts Governor and Democratic Presidential candidate—turned college professor—Michael Dukakis. He told me about a student named Christina Mulka at Northeastern University who needed a 6-month internship as part of her co-op program. Internships in my office are never 6 months, but he insisted I give her a chance; and he told me if I did, I wouldn't regret it. Well, 10 years later, he was right.

Not long after Christina's internship ended, I had an opening in my office for a press secretary. Christina was back at Northeastern settling into life as a student. Now, just as internships in my office are never 6 months, press secretaries in my office almost always have a college degree. But just as we did before, we made an exception for Christina—and I hired her before she graduated. She moved back to Washington, DC, and completed her degree while earning a paycheck from the U.S. Senate. It was the second time I made an exception for Christina Mulka. And let me tell you, she didn't disappoint.

For years, Christina served as my on-the-record spokesperson for Illinois media inquiries. Simply put, she had an extraordinary knack for dealing with Illinois reporters. Whenever I wrote an editorial, I could always count on Christina to work diligently to find a newspaper to print it. As many Senate press staffers will tell you, this is no small task. Despite working in Washington, DC, she maintained close connections with Illinois reporters. Every reporter and news outlet felt valued and in the loop because Christina valued everyone. That is who she is. She treated them all the same, big or small. Whether it was Chicago or Springfield, Quincy or Belleville, Carbondale or Mattoon, she truly cared that news outlets throughout Illinois were informed about what was happening in Washington, DC.

Christina worked well with my policy staff to understand the issues. She was always well prepared to promote my priorities, agenda, and ideas to help the people of Illinois. I had such confidence in her that, over time, her portfolio expanded to include many issues that I would list as my top priorities, including tobacco, dietary supplements, for-profit colleges, and the Marketplace Fairness Act.

Let me tell you a story about one of my first memories of Christina. She was staffing me during a round of Illinois TV interviews here in Washington, DC. Opening Day was right around the corner, and a lot of questions were about baseball, specifically the Chicago Cubs. When the interviews were over, she turned to me and apologized for not

prepping me better on the Chicago White Sox. I didn't know it at the time, but Christina is a White Sox fanatic. And during the interviews, she wanted me to steer the conversation away from the Cubs to her team, the Chicago White Sox—what a loyal fan.

Christina hails from Lisle, IL, but her family roots go back to the south side of Chicago, in a neighborhood known as the Back of the Yards—which explains her fierce loyalty to the White Sox. Sports have always played an important role in Christina's life. At Northeastern, she cocaptained the rowing squad and was chosen as the National Scholar Athlete by the Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association. A dean's list honoree and honors program participant, Christina also was a finalist for the Walter Byers Scholarship, the NCAA's highest academic award, recognizing student athletes who promise to be future leaders. Boy, did they get it right. Whatever the next chapter holds for Christina, she will be a leader.

Following Christina's promotion to deputy communications director, I saw her leadership skills flourish. She became a role model and mentor to junior press staff, allowing them to develop professionally just as she had done over the years. It was a pleasure to watch her energy, motivation, and spirit of service rub off on so many others.

In 2013, Christina took on another challenge, enrolling in Georgetown University's master in business administration program. For many, this would distract from their day job, but not Christina. It wasn't uncommon for her to work a full day, go to class for 2 to 3 hours, and be back in the office at 10 p.m., ensuring that nothing was missed. Despite the long hours, juggling work and school, she never missed a beat.

Now, Christina is off to pursue a new adventure. She found herself a great partner in Brad Carroll. Their wedding is in a few months. They are moving back to the Midwest—Detroit will be their new home—closer to her family in the suburbs of Chicago. And I want to thank the whole Mulka family for sharing Christina with our office for the last 10 years—her parents, Diana and Tom, and her younger sister and brother, Stephanie and Nick.

Christina joined this office with a high school diploma, and she is leaving after many years of serving the people of Illinois with a college degree, a graduate degree, and many friends and colleagues who will miss her. I couldn't be happier for her as she moves on to the next chapter in her life with Brad.

I will close with this: While at Northeastern, Christina developed her interest in public service with the help of Michael Dukakis. Recently, at a Northeastern Capitol Hill alumni event, Christina ran into her old mentor. She told him about her engagement and upcoming move to Detroit. His face lit up, and he immediately encouraged her

to run for mayor. I am not surprised. To know Christina Mulka is to expect big things from her. I am proud of the work she has done and will do, but more importantly, I am proud of the person she has become. Congratulations on a job well done, and best of luck.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I was unable to cast a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the compound motion to go to conference on S. 2943, the National Defense Authorization Act. I missed the vote today because I was attending a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of the motion. The final vote on this motion was 90 to 7, and my absence did not impact the outcome.

The National Defense Authorization Act specifies the budget and expenditures of the Department of Defense. This legislation is essential to support our men and women in uniform and to defend our Nation. I voted in favor of this legislation on final passage in the Senate.

Mr. President, I was unable to cast a vote on Senator SHAHEEN's motion to instruct the conferees on S. 2943, the National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA. This motion to instruct would increase the number of visas for the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa, SIV, program. I missed the vote today because I was attending a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of the motion. The final vote on this legislation/motion was 84 to 12, and my absence did not impact the outcome.

The Afghan Special Immigrant Visa, SIV, program has served an important role in protecting Afghan allies who risk their safety, as well as the safety of their families, in order to help our troops serving in Afghanistan. This program is supported by two former commanders of U.S. Forces in Afghanistan, retired Generals McChrystal and Campbell, who both acknowledge how crucial the SIV program is to our national security and to our allies.

Mr. President, I was unable to cast a vote on Senator SULLIVAN's motion to instruct conferees on S. 2943, the National Defense Authorization Act. This motion would help implement President Obama's announcement to maintain troops in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as improve the capacity of the NATO Alliance. I missed the vote today because I was attending a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of the motion. The final vote on this legislation-motion was 85 to 12, and my absence did not impact the outcome.

I support this motion to instruct conferees because the proposal would strengthen our fight against ISIS and our security partnership with European allies. Last week, President

Obama announced that the United States will maintain a force of approximately 8,400 U.S. military servicemembers in Afghanistan through 2017. These servicemen and women will continue to train and advise Afghan Forces and conduct counterterrorism operations. In order to maintain the progress that global coalition made against the Taliban during Operation Enduring Freedom and to prevent the spread of ISIS in the region, it is essential to authorize these operations.

As we work to fight terrorism abroad by increasing our efforts to build and lead the international coalition against ISIS, we must also confront the threat that Russia poses. That means we need to increase capacity and operational responsiveness of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO. At the NATO Summit in Warsaw this month, President Obama and our allies pledged to increase the capacity of the European Reassurance Initiative. This is essential to deter Russian aggression and ensure that one of our most vital defense alliances is able to respond to evolving threats. The U.S. troops who will participate in the increased rotational presence in Poland represent a necessary response to Russia's increased aggression and provocation in the region.

Mr. President, I was unable to cast a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on H.R. 5293, the fiscal year 2017 Defense Appropriations Act. I missed the vote today because I was attending a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted against invoking cloture, as I did on July 6, 2016. The final vote on this motion was 55 to 42, and my absence did not impact the outcome.

Congress passed a bipartisan agreement, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which outlines funding levels for 2016 and 2017. Attempts to circumvent the Bipartisan Budget Act are a violation of that agreement.

Mr. President, I was unable to cast a vote on the motion to invoke cloture upon reconsideration on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2577, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations. I missed the vote today because I was attending a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted against the motion to invoke cloture, as I did on June 28, 2016. The final vote on this motion today was 52 to 44, and my absence did not impact the outcome.

On May 19, 2016, I voted for the Senate version of the 2017 appropriations legislation to fund military construction and the Department of Veterans Affairs when the Senate passed that bill by an overwhelming majority of 89–8. However, this conference report does not reflect the Senate position and instead slashes \$500 million from our military and our veterans when compared to the funding levels included in the bipartisan Senate-passed bill.

This conference report also includes certain policy riders I do not agree with attached to the funding that the

Senate originally included to combat the Zika virus. The conferees also decided to offset these emergency funds by cutting funding for other important initiatives including funding that is continuing to be used to combat the outbreak of the Ebola virus. When faced with an emergency, whether it is a devastating weather event like a tornado or a hurricane or a public health threat, we come together as Americans to ensure that we are providing the necessary resources to our friends and neighbors in their time of need. Including controversial offsets to the Zika emergency response funding only causes unnecessary delay and prevents assistance from getting to the health care professionals, researchers, and others who need these resources to combat the Zika virus.●

NATIONAL BIOENGINEERED FOOD DISCLOSURE STANDARD

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I would like to engage in a colloquy with the Senator from Michigan, Ms. STABENOW, who serves as the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and is a lead sponsor of the GMO labeling bill, S. 764, approved by the Senate on July 7, 2016. I would like to seek a clarification regarding the intent with regard to a provision in the bill that relates to consistency with the Organic Foods Production Act and related rules and regulations.

Specifically, section 293(f) of the bill states that:

“[t]he Secretary shall consider establishing consistency between—

(1) the national bioengineered food disclosure standard established under this section; and

(2) the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) and any rules or regulations implementing that Act.”

Given this provision, I would like clarification from my colleague that nothing in this legislation would require USDA to change the Organic Foods Production Act rules or regulations to comport with the new bioengineered food disclosure standard and definitions created by S. 764, as passed by the Senate on July 7, 2016.

Ms. STABENOW. I thank the Senator from Wisconsin for engaging on this issue and seeking clarification on this point. S. 764 amends the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946. S. 764 does not amend the Organic Foods Production Act or its rules or regulations. More specifically, section 293(f) is only intended to require that USDA consider aligning the rules and regulations of the new GMO disclosure program established under this bill with the rules and regulations of the existing National Organic Program, not the inverse. Again, I will clarify that S.764 does not provide any authority to amend the Organic Foods Production Act or its rules and regulations.

In addition, I would draw to the attention of my colleague another sec-

tion of this bill, section 292(b), which states:

“(b) APPLICATION OF DEFINITION.—The definition of the term ‘bioengineering’ under section 291 shall not affect any other definition, program, rule, or regulation of the Federal Government.”

I believe this provision clarifies that nothing in the new bioengineered food disclosure standard established in this legislation would require USDA to take any action to change the existing Organic Foods Production Act rules and regulations.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, we have a problem in our court system. We currently have 83 judicial vacancies, and 29 of these are considered judicial emergency vacancies because they have been vacant so long or because the case backlog is so severe. There is a simple reason we have this problem: Senate Republicans refuse to do their job and confirm judicial nominees. This is the case from the Supreme Court, with the outrageous and unprecedented obstruction of Judge Merrick Garland, to the Federal Courts of Appeals, where it took more than a year for Judge Felipe Restrepo to be confirmed to the Third Circuit, down to the District Courts, where the number of vacancies has skyrocketed under Republican leadership.

We haven’t always had this problem, and there is no good reason we have it now. Eight years ago this week, when Democrats controlled the Senate and President Bush was in the White House, there were a total of 39 vacancies in the court system. In the last 2 years of the Bush Presidency, the Senate confirmed 68 judges, compared to just 22 judges confirmed to date in President Obama’s final 2 years.

Pennsylvania currently has five pending judicial nominees. One, Rebecca Haywood, is an excellent nominee for the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. She is extremely well-qualified and deserves timely consideration and a vote. The other four are district court nominees, all distinguished judges nominated with bipartisan support from my colleague Senator TOOMEY. Two of these nominees, Susan Baxter and Marilyn Horan, passed out of the Judiciary Committee with unanimous support by voice vote. They are among the 24 judicial nominees on the Executive Calendar awaiting confirmation votes. These nominees have been vetted and unanimously deemed qualified by the Senate Judiciary Committee, and there is simply no legitimate reason to block their confirmation. They deserve an immediate vote.

Pennsylvania’s other two distinguished district court nominees, John Younge and Robert Colville, are equally qualified to be excellent Federal judges; yet, inexplicably, Senate Republicans have blocked them from even getting a committee vote. So they remain, for no legitimate reason, stuck

with the 26 other judicial nominees awaiting committee consideration.

This extreme level of obstructionism has serious consequences for Americans seeking access to the courthouse. In 2015, 361,689 cases were filed in the U.S. district courts, increasing the total number of pending cases by 3 percent in just a single year to 438,808. In Pennsylvania alone, 16,609 new cases were filed in our three districts in 2015. How are the courts supposed to give full and fair consideration to all of these cases if they are understaffed?

The glacial pace of judicial confirmations is, quite simply, hurting the system of justice in this country. The obstruction is not only preventing access to justice by creating huge backlogs of cases, but is also damaging the integrity of the judiciary by politicizing nominees who should remain independent and nonpartisan. Senate Republicans need to do their job and immediately schedule votes to confirm the pending judicial nominees in Pennsylvania and around the country.

EXTENDING ADVANCED ENERGY TAX CREDITS

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I wish to enter into a colloquy with the senior Senator from South Carolina in regards to the bipartisan efforts to extend the investment tax credits for advanced energy technologies.

As you know, the investment tax credit incentives for fuel cells and other small alternative-power technologies—including microturbines, combined heat and power, small wind, and thermal energy—in section 48 of the Tax Code expires at the end of this year. These advanced energy technologies are finally transitioning from development to commercialization and are playing a critical role in making energy in this country more resilient, reliable, and less vulnerable to fuel price hikes.

For example, fuel cells, which I know well from being produced in my home State of Delaware, are already being used to provide reliable power to first responders, manufacturers, and retail companies. Fuel cells ensure critical facilities continue to have electricity, even when grid power is unavailable. Fuel cells are U.S. invented, U.S. manufactured, and run on U.S. natural gas. This technology is a win-win for energy security, job growth, and the economy.

As you can imagine, these emerging alternative-energy companies require predictable tax credits beyond the end of 2016 for R&D, capitalization, and cash flow reasons. Delays in extending these tax credits could put hundreds of manufacturing jobs in my State, in my friend from South Carolina’s State, and thousands of jobs across the country at risk.

At the end of last year, it seemed our message about the urgency of extending all of these section 48 tax credits was heard loud and clear. During negotiations on the year-end tax extenders

package last December, there was bipartisan agreement to extend all of the section 48 tax credits through the end of 2021. Unfortunately, due to a simple case of human error, the extension of these tax credits was accidentally excluded during the final drafting of the tax legislation. Solar and wind were extended as part of the agreement, but five other small alternative-power technologies were inadvertently excluded.

This mistake was identified within hours of the bill text being released, but unfortunately, due to time constraints and the desire to move expeditiously, House and Senate leaders determined that modifications to correct this mistake were not possible at the time. Instead, there was a bipartisan agreement to work together to address this mistake early in 2016.

Let me say to my colleague, I know we have missed some opportunities to get this issue resolved, but I would welcome the opportunity to work with him, his staff, and other colleagues to find ways to get these advanced energy credits extended. I believe we still have opportunities to get this done, but we cannot afford further delays. Would the Senator be willing to work with my staff and me?

Mr. GRAHAM. I want to thank the senior Senator from Delaware for raising this important issue. I would be happy to work with him on this issue because, as my friend and colleague from Delaware knows, my State of South Carolina is already seeing firsthand the benefits these advanced energy technologies are having on the local economy. As my friend from Delaware mentioned, this is a bipartisan and bicameral effort, and I believe we can find a way to get this done.

Mr. CARPER. I would like thank the senior Senator from South Carolina for his support and thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, in both Chambers, that are working so hard to get this issue resolved as soon as possible this year. I thank the Senator.

THE FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES BILL

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, with a weeks-long recess upon us, sometimes opportunities to make history get lost. I am going to take a few minutes to describe an historic opportunity to help vulnerable families and children at risk. I hope my colleagues rise to the occasion when Congress resumes its legislative work in September.

The bipartisan, bicameral legislation called the Family First Prevention Services Act would give new hope to hundreds of thousands of children and their families. It would, for the first time, allow States to permanently invest Federal foster care dollars to safely keep families together, instead of ripping them apart. It passed the House by voice vote at the end of last month, and in my view, it ought to be an easy

bipartisan win. I remain hopeful the Senate will come together to pass it in the months ahead.

I want to take a few minutes to look back at how this proposal came together before describing what it can accomplish. In the mid-1990s, there was a debate in the Congress as to whether sending kids to orphanages was the right idea. It was obvious, in my view, that there had to be better alternatives.

Along with many of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, I saw an opportunity for our child welfare policies to empower and unite families, so I authored the Kinship Care Act. It said that aunts or uncles or grandparents who met the right standards would be notified and have first preference when it came to caring for a niece or nephew or grandchild. It was the first Federal law of its kind. And over the past two decades Congress, in a bipartisan manner, has built on that framework.

Two years ago, I became chairman of the Finance Committee, and I wanted to continue that progress and keep building on those values because, even though the 1990s are long gone, the foster care system is still badly flawed. When you look at the child welfare policies on the books today, you see big incentives for breaking families up. You don't see anywhere near enough incentive for keeping families together and helping them heal and thrive. It is a system that boxes families into two often bad options: foster care or nothing at all. So 2 years ago, I began working on legislation to change that.

I put forward a proposal in 2015 called the Family Stability and Kinship Care Act. In the months that followed, I worked with Republican and Democratic colleagues in the Senate and the House on a bipartisan path forward. Last month, Chairman HATCH and I, along with Ways and Means Chairman BRADY, Ranking Member SANDER LEVIN, and Congressman VERN BUCHANAN in the House, introduced our bipartisan, bicameral bill. Here is what our legislation would do.

First, it takes the current system that is rife with flaws and turns it on its head. Instead of paying a dollar for families to be split up, the bill says, let's see if it is possible to use that dollar to help a family stay together. Let's see if that dollar can keep a youngster safe at home, where he or she is most likely to be healthy and happy and succeed in school.

Remember that most youngsters in foster care aren't there because of physical or sexual abuse. Kids predominantly wind up in foster care because of circumstances that lead to neglect. Maybe Mom or Dad needs help dealing with a child's behavioral issues. Maybe they need substance abuse treatment. Maybe a relative could step in and help, especially if they have support.

It provides critical assistance to families struggling with addiction to opioids or other substances. It invests

in programs that help fight child abuse and neglect. And lastly, it takes what I believe are vital steps to prioritize safety by setting basic standards for foster care facilities and group homes.

I want to focus on that last point for a moment. Some troubled or abused youngsters have been through such severe trauma that they need the kind of help they can only get in a temporary, high-quality treatment facility. They are kids who struggle with mental health illnesses or behavioral problems, young people recovering from addiction, or victims of sex trafficking. The support they need is unique, and they need access to reliable care in a safe place. But those placements need to be an intervention, not a destination. In my view, when they are able, children should have the opportunity to reunite with kin or join a foster or adoptive family.

For the first time, our bill would lay down basic standards so that youngsters don't have to face the prospect of growing up in those circumstances. These are standards guided by the states and laid out to protect kids. They are designed to raise the bar for group homes and make sure that children aren't sent away and forgotten. In my view, this policy is a no-brainer.

I understand a small handful of States have raised concerns about this legislation. The concerns essentially revolve around three common points.

First, I have heard concerns that there will not be enough family foster homes to meet demand. It is true that across the country, many states are facing severe shortages in family foster homes. That is why the bill invests new funding for competitive grants to improve foster parent recruitment and retention. Moreover, the whole premise of the bill is to prevent children from unnecessarily entering foster care in the first place. States across the country have shown they can safely reduce foster care and in so doing, reduce the demand for foster homes. And let's not forget, States would have over 3 years before these new group home standards come into effect giving more than adequate time to plan for the changes.

A second concern I have heard is that there is there is too much rigidity when it comes to licensing standards, accreditation, and assessment requirements for children placed in residential treatment programs for youth in need of higher levels of care. The sponsors of the legislation as well as the Department of Health and Human Services have made it abundantly clear that there is significant flexibility in these provisions of the bill. With respect to child welfare law, there is no statutory or regulatory definition for what constitutes "licensed clinical and nursing staff." A wide variety of models could be used to meet these criteria. What we must not lose sight of is the fact that the terminology in this bill is based on what we know is in the best interest of children. The standards laid out in this bill are supported by the American

Academy of Pediatrics, the Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, the American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the Children's Defense Fund, and over 130 other organizations.

A third concern I have heard is that the time frame for assessing youth to determine whether they need residential treatment is too short. Under the legislation, a State can receive a Federal match for up to 2 weeks for any foster care placement that is allowable under current law. That means placements like child care institutions, shelters, group homes, and family foster homes for up to 2 weeks. After those 2 weeks, in order to receive a Federal match for room and board, a child may only be served in a family foster home, a supervised independent living placement for youth 18 and older, a facility specializing in serving pregnant and parenting youth, or a qualified residential treatment program. If a child is served in a qualified residential treatment program, the State still has up to 30 days to perform an assessment. That means the State has up to 6 weeks to perform assessments to determine the appropriateness of a child's placement. And even then, if the residential treatment program is deemed NOT to be in the child's best interest, the State has an additional 30 days to receive Federal funding on behalf of that child to find a more appropriate placement. That adds up to nearly 3 months for the States to continue to receive Federal funding while determining the best placement for a child. Let me tell you, 10 weeks is a long time in the life of a vulnerable kid and should be plenty of time to find an appropriate placement.

In addition to these technical questions, some just say the change is coming too fast. For example, a newspaper recently reported that officials in one particular State warned the bill "could worsen the state's already worrisome shortage of foster care beds. . . ." and that it could "disqualify about 3,000 slots in group homes and institutional settings" from Federal financial help. To my mind, it can be too easy in this debate to lose sight of the fact that right now, a lot of vulnerable youngsters are in desperate circumstances. So let's focus for a moment on the question of group homes in that particular State.

Last year, the State in question lost a class-action lawsuit over its foster care program. The lawsuit found that the State violated the constitutional rights of foster children by exposing them to unreasonable risks in a system where children "often age out of care more damaged than when they entered." I want to repeat that finding because, in my view, it speaks volumes, that children "often age out of care more damaged than when they entered."

The U.S. district judge who wrote the decision directed the State to stop placing certain children in unsafe settings such as foster group homes that

lack 24-hour supervision. At question was whether group homes should continue to operate at all, given concerns that they cause "an unreasonable risk of harm" to foster children. The court heard testimony that, in foster group homes that mix younger children with older children, sexual abuse "is usual rather than unusual." The court heard stories of one foster boy who was "sexually abused almost every night by one of the bigger boys in the home," while the caretakers were asleep on the other side of the house. So in my judgement, if that is the way things are now, then that is a situation that cries out for change. It is time to take a fresh approach that will do a better job of protecting kids and families.

Here is my bottom line. The weight of the status quo is severe, and it falls heaviest on the thousands of foster kids living in quiet struggle.

Doing nothing is easy, I realize that. But it is long past time for the Congress to overcome the inertia of the status quo. And the fact is most of the reforms you are seeing today are incremental—foisted upon States in decrees, settlement agreements, and court orders in class action lawsuits.

My home State of Oregon is no exception. Oregon's Department of Human Services was just hit by a \$60 million lawsuit. Too often, States fail to provide for the most basic safety for these vulnerable kids, and that is why advocates are turning to the courts for change.

In recent years, the advocacy organization Children's Rights has filed class action lawsuits in Arizona, Connecticut, D.C., Georgia, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin.

Absent reforms and partnership with the Federal Government, unfortunately, these types of lawsuits that produce only slow improvements will continue to be one of few clear avenues to drive change. It is time Congress stepped up. The standards laid out in this bill are supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, the American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and the Children's Defense Fund and countless others. The experts agree with our premise, that group home care should be used only when it is clinically necessary.

This bill is not perfect, but no legislation is ever perfect. I have been clear that there will be opportunities—both through the regulatory and legislative processes—to strengthen this legislation and build on it. But in my judgement, this bill gets us closer to a world where foster care is needed less often, a system where the priority is keeping children and families together.

If this bill were to come before the Senate in an up-or-down vote, I believe it would sail through on a bipartisan basis. It is the right policy for kids, and it is the right policy for taxpayers, whose investments in foster care today

aren't helping children and families the way they should.

I urge my colleagues to support the Family First Prevention Services Act. The Senate can and must get this done in the months ahead and send it to the president's desk.

As civil rights icon Marian Wright Edelman said, "Don't make our most vulnerable children wait longer" for the help they need.

ANNIVERSARY AND REAUTHORIZATION OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, 51 years ago today—July 14, 1965—President Johnson signed the Older Americans Act into law, solidifying our commitment to America's seniors and creating critical programs to ensure that all Americans can age with dignity and security. I am very pleased that President Obama signed the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act on April 19, 2016. My view is that a nation is judged not by how many billionaires and millionaires it has, but instead by how it treats the most vulnerable people among us.

I would like to thank Chairman ALEXANDER and Ranking Member MURRAY for their efforts in getting this reauthorization passed into law. I would also like to acknowledge the many organizations representing tens of millions of Americans who worked with me and my staff to get this bill to President Obama, including the National Council on Aging, Meals on Wheels America, the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, and others.

Every day in my State of Vermont and around this country, millions of seniors are struggling with the difficult choice they must make with their limited budgets—whether to buy food, medicine, or keep a roof over their heads. These are not the choices seniors in this country should be forced to make.

More than half of older households have no retirement savings and are just one bad fall or illness away from economic catastrophe. The Older Americans Act provides important long-term services and supports that help keep older Vermonters and seniors across this country healthy and out of poverty. The Older Americans Act provides a broad range of services including home-delivered and congregate meals, transportation services, family caregiver support, preventive health services, and many supportive services. The law also funds job training, legal assistance, and elder abuse prevention and protection services.

I, along with my staff, worked on the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act for the past several years. During that time, we held hearings on senior hunger and convened listening sessions with advocacy groups to learn more about the best way to extend these programs. What I heard over and over

again was simple: The law is working well, but it needs more funding to keep up with rising costs and a growing senior population. We must protect and expand funding for these important programs.

The simple fact is the amount of funding dedicated for these important programs is a disgrace. As a point of comparison, while funding for other programs has risen by 11 percent since 2009, Older Americans Act funding has dropped 7 percent over that same time. Funding for these crucial programs has not even kept up with inflation. That is why, for the past several years, I have led an appropriations request letter asking for a 12 percent increase in funding for the Older Americans Act. A 12 percent increase would make a meaningful difference for states struggling to provide services to their growing senior populations.

Some of the most important and well-known services funded by the Older Americans Act are the meals programs, often provided by Meals on Wheels. A Government Accountability Office, GAO, report I requested last year found that fewer than 10 percent of low-income seniors who needed a meal delivered to their homes in 2013 received one. The study also found that one in three low-income seniors are "food insecure," yet fewer than 5 percent receive a meal at home or at a senior center. That is unacceptable.

Investing in senior nutrition programs is not only the moral thing to do, it is the financially smart thing to do. Proper nutrition can keep people out of long-term care and emergency rooms. Meal delivery is also a good opportunity for visiting with an isolated senior who might otherwise go days without seeing another person.

Another critical OAA program is the Senior Community Service Employment Program, SCSEP, which provides job training and employment services for older adults. Seniors are matched with part-time jobs at organizations in the community and many times these positions turn into permanent employment, increasing seniors' financial security.

Senior centers are another important way the Older Americans Act supports the needs of seniors in our communities. The reauthorization includes some policy changes to modernize senior centers to help ensure people are taking part in activities like group meals, afternoon activities, and exercise classes.

Another crucial service I strongly hope receives full funding is the Senior Medicare Patrol Program, SMP, which helps protect seniors and their families from health care fraud, errors, and abuse. We have bipartisan agreement that this is an important, cost-saving program, and if Congress does not appropriate sufficient funding for SMP, then those funds should be distributed from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Program so the program does not experience a cut.

I am pleased that this title II of this bill continues funding for several important resource and information centers, including the Pension Counseling Program and the National Education and Resource Center on Women and Retirement Planning. These programs serve older adults across the nation by providing much-needed information on pensions, retirement issues, and avoiding poverty and financial fraud.

The number of Americans age 60 and over will grow from about 65 million today to 92 million by 2030. Our most vulnerable populations need to see that we care and are here to serve and support them.

Funding must keep up with the increases we see in the cost of living for seniors, including housing, food, transportation, and prescription drugs. The Older Americans Act reauthorization had the unanimous consent of all Senate and House Members and committed to a 7 percent increase in funding over the next 3 years. I am hopeful my colleagues on the Senate Appropriations Committee will use their authority to continue to meet or exceed this funding goal for these critically important programs. I will continue to advocate strongly for these funding increases.

The truth is that the priorities we hold—treating seniors with respect, making sure seniors have the support they need—have the overwhelming support of the American people. These principles are among the foundations of a just and fair society where people look forward to growing old. I thank my Senate and House colleagues for their support of this important reauthorization bill and President Obama for signing it into law. I am pleased to recognize the anniversary of the passage of the Older Americans Act today.

95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, July 9, 2016, marked the 95th anniversary of the enactment of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, legislation that has changed the lives of thousands of native Hawaiians in the State of Hawaii.

This legislation was made possible by the vision of Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalanianaʻole.

After the annexation of Hawaii, Prince Kuhio continued to serve his people as Hawaii's second delegate in Congress.

When Prince Kuhio took office in 1902, he was determined to improve the lives of native Hawaiians. Although he served as a nonvoting delegate, he championed the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act to create a trust of nearly 200,000 acres of land that previously belonged to the monarchs of the Hawaiian Kingdom. By setting aside this land, Congress intended to ensure the livelihood of native Hawaiians, whose population had been reduced from as many as, according to some estimates, 800,000 prior to 1778 to a little over 20,000 by 1920.

In a letter that Prince Kuhio circulated to the Senate in 1920, he shared the results of an extensive investigation and survey that noted the exceedingly high mortality rate of native Hawaiians. The survey justified the need to return native Hawaiians to the land, to reconnect with their sense of place, and elevate their well-being by providing stable housing and opportunities to improve their livelihood. Prince Kuhio shepherded the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act through both the House and Senate, and President Warren Harding signed the bill into law on July 9, 1921.

In 1924, the first homestead in Kalamaula on the island of Molokai became home to 42 Native Hawaiians who began harvesting vegetables and raising animals to sell at local markets.

Today nearly 10,000 Native Hawaiian beneficiaries and their families live on agricultural, pastoral, or residential homestead lots in over 60 communities across Hawaii.

With Hawaii's admission into the Union in 1959, the State of Hawaii was tasked with administering the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, a responsibility primarily led by the State's Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. At the Federal level, Congress has continued to live up to its commitments to the Hawaiian community, first established by the HHCA, through continued funding for programs focused on planning, development, housing construction, and home loan programs to support the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands in its mission, as well as home loans and guarantees to support Hawaiian Homes beneficiaries.

On the 95th anniversary of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, we recognize and thank Prince Kuhio for his vision and sincere aloha for the well-being of Native Hawaiians.

The Hawaiian Homes Commission Act has made a difference in thousands of lives and set the foundation for acknowledging the trust relationship between the Native Hawaiian community and the Federal Government. Today the Federal Government continues this trust relationship by providing funds to support housing, health care, education, and other resources for the benefit of the Native Hawaiian community.

However, there is still much to be done to assist Hawaii's indigenous population. I will continue to work with Congress, the executive branch, the State of Hawaii, and the Native Hawaiian community to not only safeguard Prince Kuhio's landmark legislation and legacy, but to ensure it, and the community he worked so hard to assist, will continue to thrive.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, today I wish to honor MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, FL, during its 75th anniversary year.

MacDill's humble start began during its construction when aircrews of the 29th Bomber Group landed their B-17 Flying Fortress bombers on a nearby dirt airstrip in farmer John Drew's fields after flying antisubmarine patrols in the Gulf of Mexico. Later named Drew Field, this strip is now known as Tampa International Airport.

Formally dedicated on April 16, 1941, MacDill was primarily known for training bomber aircrews of the III Bomber Command. Intrepid but inexperienced crews learning to fly B-26 Marauder bombers at MacDill were glad of Tampa's warm climate when ditching their aircraft in the waters surrounding the field. The regularity of this occurrence prompted air crews to jokingly coin the phrase "Once a day in Tampa Bay."

MacDill proved its strategic significance during World War II as an anti-submarine patrol and air defense base home to B-24A Liberators of the 44th Bomber Group and Seversky P-35 aircraft of the 53rd Pursuit Group. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, MacDill again displayed its geographical importance, serving as a prime location for staging B-47 Stratojet and B-52 Stratofortress bomber aircraft.

Transitioning from a primarily bomber base once home to the famed B-17 Memphis Belle, MacDill became a Tactical Air Command installation flying the F-84 Thunderstreak jet fighter. From the 1960s through the early 1980s, F-4 Phantom II fighters filled its skies, followed by F-16 Fighting Falcons in the 1980s and 1990s. The base is now an Air Mobility Command installation, home to the 6th Air Mobility Wing and its 310th Airlift Squadron and the 91st Air Refueling Squadron.

MacDill is also home to the headquarters of two of the U.S. military's unified combatant commands: U.S. Central Command, whose area of operations encompasses the Middle East and parts of North Africa and Central Asia, and U.S. Special Operations Command, tasked with oversight of the component special operations units of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.

Non-Department of Defense tenants of MacDill Air Force Base include the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Aircraft Operations Center, which operates the NOAA "Hurricane Hunter" fleet of WP-3D Orion and Gulfstream V aircraft. The U.S. Department of Agriculture also conducts its antimedfly operations out of MacDill.

More than 13,000 military and civilian personnel are involved in operations at MacDill, and the surrounding community is home to approximately 170,000 retirees who use health and welfare services on the base. MacDill is a vital economic driver for the Tampa Bay area and is not only a source of jobs for the community, but also a welcome source of pride in our Nation's Armed Forces.

I am confident that MacDill Air Force Base will remain an important strategic installation for our military and continue to play an important role in protecting the safety of Floridians and all Americans. I am proud to honor its 75 great years of service.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEST BUY

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I wish to speak to honor the 50th anniversary of Best Buy.

Best Buy was founded in 1966 as a stereo store called the Sound of Music in St. Paul, MN. Since then, it has grown from that one store into a Fortune 100 company with over 1,000 locations across the U.S., as well as Canada and Mexico.

In 1966, Richard M. Schultze—a Minnesota native and former member of the Minnesota Air National Guard—and Gary Smoliak opened the Sound of Music on the corner of Hamline and St. Clair Avenues in St. Paul. By 1969, Schultze assumed sole control of the company, which had grown to three stores and was listed on the NASDAQ Stock Market.

Then in 1981, disaster and inspiration struck. The Sound of Music store located in Roseville, MN, was hit by a tornado which tore the roof off the building and destroyed the showroom. Schultze showed the innovation and entrepreneurial spirit characteristic of Minnesota. He decided to have a "tornado sale" in the Roseville's store's parking lot and promised "best buys" on everything. Needless to say, the sale was a success.

The Sound of Music was renamed Best Buy Company, Inc., in 1983 and had grown to seven stores and \$10 million in annual sales. Later that year, Best Buy opened its first megastore in Burnsville, MN.

By 1992, Best Buy had reached \$1 billion in revenues. In 1999, Best Buy was added to the Standard and Poor's 500 index. Best Buy has consistently been one of the Minnesota-headquartered companies in the Fortune 500 and currently ranks 71st on the Fortune 500 nationally. And Best Buy was named company of the year by Forbes in 2004.

So why do people shop at Best Buy? Maybe it is because they have updated their showrooms and a commission-free salesforce. Or maybe it is the wide range of products, interactive touchscreens kiosks and the demonstration areas for home theater systems and computer software. Best Buy also pioneered the concept of specialized in-store customer service areas by establishing a Geek Squad unit in each store.

Best Buy has also been a good corporate citizen in Minnesota. Since 2007, Best Buy Company has generously given over \$50 million and over 140,000 volunteer hours to Minnesota nonprofits. And they don't just care about

people, they also care about the planet. Best Buy operates the largest retail consumer electronics and e-waste recycling collection program in the U.S. Over 1 billion pounds of recycling has been handed over to certified recyclers helping to keep the environment clean. Best Buy has also been named to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency top-100 list of green-power purchasers.

• Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I join my colleague in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Best Buy.

Best Buy's innovation and leadership has turned a once small, Minnesota company into the successful and responsible multinational corporation it is today. They are a vital component of the Minnesota economy and integral to our communities, and in celebration of their anniversary, I would like to take some time to recognize their important work to tackle one of the most pressing issues facing our society today: climate change.

Climate change is a very serious threat to our planet, and Best Buy has risen to the challenge by taking proactive steps to reduce their carbon footprint. They have joined with other major American companies in signing the White House's American Business Act on Climate Pledge. As part of the pledge, Best Buy has committed to reducing carbon emissions in their operations by 45 percent of 2009 levels by 2020, which builds on the 26 percent emissions reduction they have already achieved. As a company committed to delivering sustainable technology solutions, Best Buy also committed to continue offering an assortment of energy-efficient products to help consumers reduce their carbon footprint, too. Best Buy's pledge represents a collaboration between government and industry to address climate change and take serious action now.

They have also taken steps to protect our environment by helping consumers responsibly dispose of their electronic goods. Their recycling program has grown into the largest retail recycling program in the nation and, to date, has processed over 1 billion pounds of consumer electronic devices and appliances. Their dedication to sustainable practices has a meaningful impact on the future of our planet.

Best Buy's continued excellence serves as a model to other businesses throughout the State and across the Nation, and I congratulate them on 50 years of business.

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I thank my colleague for his statement and agree.

Best Buy started with one store in St. Paul 50 years ago. It is now a multinational company with 125,000 employees who give back to their communities and work to reduce the impact of used electronics on the environment.

For 50 years, Best Buy has brought the latest consumer technology and electronics products and services to its customers and remains a proud Minnesota company. That is why I am proud to honor Best Buy. •

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the paper and forest products industry to support their advancement of six sustainability goals.

There are about 18,000 hard-working men and women employed by the forest products industry in the State of Maine where we have about 40 wood products and paper manufacturing facilities contributing over \$900 million to the economy through jobs and wages and over \$4 billion in industry shipments of products, making the forest products industry one of the largest manufacturing sectors in our State.

Sustainability is inherent to the pulp, paper, packaging, tissue, and wood products manufacturing industry. These products are made from renewable and recyclable resources, and these companies have a good track record of managing natural resources in order to ensure they can continue making useful products in the future.

In 2011, the industry established the Better Practices, Better Planet 2020 initiative pursuing one of the most extensive sets of sustainability goals established for a U.S. manufacturing industry.

By 2020, the Better Practices, Better Planets goals aim to exceed 70 percent paper recovery for recycling, improve purchased energy efficiency by at least 10 percent, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from member facilities by at least 15 percent, increase the amount of fiber procured from certified forestlands or through certified fiber sourcing programs in the U.S. from 2005 to 2020 and work to decrease illegal logging, improve worker safety by 25 percent, with a broader vision of zero industry injuries, and reduce water use in member facilities by 12 percent.

This week the American Forest & Paper Association released their 2016 report on the industry's performance. The industry works with government agencies, communities and other stakeholders to employ advanced sustainability practices benefitting the economy, environment and society and transparently reports on their performance. I am pleased to announce that the industry has met the greenhouse gas emissions and safety goals ahead of schedule.

These companies are committed to sustainability along the entire value chain, starting with the renewable resources they acquire to make their products. AF&PA members procured 98 percent of their fiber through certified fiber sourcing programs and have also increased the amount of fiber procured from certified forestlands to 29 percent.

Also, AF&PA companies are strong proponents of international efforts to suppress illegal logging and to reduce the demand for illegally harvested forest products.

AF&PA's mandatory Environment, Health & Safety Principles require that members have health and safety policies in place. Implementing worker

training, increased automation, and a host of injury preventive measures and safeguards allowed AF&PA members to reduce their incidence rate by 40.8 percent between 2006 and 2014. These companies are committed to continue to look for new ways to reach their aspirational goal of zero workplace injuries.

The industry's purchased energy efficiency improved by 8.1 percent due to investments in energy efficiency projects. Many pulp and paper mills are largely energy self-sufficient, 56 percent of electricity needed to power manufacturing processes was self-generated, and, in some cases, supplying energy to the electric utility grid.

Improved energy efficiency and the use of less carbon-intensive fuels and carbon-neutral biomass enabled the industry to significantly reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. These companies reduced their greenhouse gas emissions by 16 percent, surpassing the goal of 15-percent reduction.

Water is a valuable natural resource and a vital component of the paper-making process. The forest products industry directly returns about 88 percent of the water it withdraws and uses in its manufacturing processes. Ongoing technology and innovation enable water to be reused and recycled 10 times, on average, throughout the pulp and paper mill process before it is treated in a wastewater system and returned to the environment. So far, water use at these pulp and paper mills was reduced by 6.5 percent since 2005.

The industry's commitment to sustainability extends beyond the manufacturing process: More than 60 percent of paper consumed in the U.S. was recovered for recycling each year since 2009, reaching a record 66.8 percent in 2015.

Paper recovery success is possible thanks to the millions of Americans who continue to recycle at home, work, and school every day. In 2014, 96 percent of the U.S. population had access to community curbside and/or drop-off paper recycling services. AF&PA works to promote paper recovery by creating materials to educate consumers about best recycling practices.

I ask my colleagues to join us in congratulating this industry on taking steps to improve environmental performance, continue economic progress and support our communities. I am proud of this industry's progress and their continued commitment to advance sustainability performance.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SUMMER LEARNING

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I want to take a moment today to stress the importance of providing young people with safe places to learn during the summer months. Summer is in full swing, and families are deciding how their children's time will be spent while school is out. Unfortunately, not all families in America can afford en-

riching experiences like summer camps and summer tutors.

That gap between families who have resources and those that do not is expressed clearly in their children. Evidence shows that students who lack access to summer learning, informal or structured, start the school year behind. When many kids are having to review last year's lessons, then all the kids have to spend that time reviewing last year's lessons. This puts all our kids behind.

Simply put, the long summer break should not be a long break from learning.

With Oregon's 4-year high school graduation rate at an alarmingly low 74 percent, it is long past time we shine a spotlight on summer learning loss and its impact on our students' path toward graduation. Summer learning loss has consequences that can damage a child's long-term academic and career success. That is especially important in my State where one in four teenagers doesn't make it to graduation on time.

Research by the National Summer Learning Association shows that most students lose math and reading skills during summer break. And unfortunately, students from low-income families fare even worse. The sad truth is that most students lose about 2 months of grade level equivalency in math computation skills over the summer months, and low-income students lose an additional 2 months in reading achievement.

As parents, community leaders, educators and policymakers, we must provide every resource possible to bridge that gap for disadvantaged and low income students. I have long fought to close the achievement gap and support all students on a path toward high school graduation and beyond.

I know so many great education advocates in Oregon who share these goals, and I want to commend Oregon's tremendous educators who work on this effort every single day. My good friends at Oregon Afterschool for Kids have made a strong commitment to keep kids learning all summer long. Their efforts to open up school libraries and school cafeterias in Woodburn, Salem, Eugene, and around the State have truly made a difference in children's lives by providing them with a safe and welcoming learning environment during the summer. I have often seen parents bring their children for a free lunch and stay for the free books.

This year, I hope to see even more communities come out and support our students by hosting summer learning activities. Even if you cannot attend events to serve lunch and read stories to classrooms full of children, remember that supporting summer learning is easy. Volunteering your time or donating books or crayons to neighbors is another way to support young learners. More ideas can be found in the "Summer Learning Tip Sheet for Parents" provided by the National Summer Learning Association.

As I have traveled around my State having conversations in high school auditoriums and school gyms, I have heard so many good ideas on how to help students succeed in school. Oregonians agree that we must support all aspects of a student's life to improve their outcomes, and I will add that this rings true all year long. I have seen firsthand that our communities are ready to come together and support students who need it. This is truly the Oregon way.

I am committed to helping more of our students get their high school diplomas and increase the rate at which our students are graduating from high school. Fighting summer learning loss is one way we can keep all students on a path toward a bright future.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLLYWOOD THEATRE

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, this year marks the 90th anniversary of the Hollywood Theatre in Portland, OR. Now a nonprofit organization, the Hollywood Theatre is an important Oregon landmark with a rich cultural history. Today I want to honor the Hollywood Theatre's 90 years of educating, entertaining, and bringing the community together through film.

The Hollywood Theatre was built in 1926, at the very end of the silent movie era. It was designed in an opulent Spanish Colonial Revival style, featuring extravagant interiors and a recognizable terra cotta exterior. Ninety years ago, it opened its doors to thousands of Oregonians who flocked to the luxurious theater to see its first show, "More Pay-Less Work," for a quarter. It thrived during cinema's transition to "talkies," hosting not only films but also community events such as bond drives during WWII and annual Rose Festival ceremonies. It was such a popular destination that the Northeast Portland neighborhood surrounding it became known as the Hollywood District.

In the 1960s, the popularity of television caused the Hollywood Theatre to fall on hard times. Although it was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983, it slipped into a period of disrepair and nearly burned down. Fortunately, it was purchased by Film Action Oregon, a local nonprofit, in 1997. Its new management returned the theatre to its historic appearance and renewed its status as a Portland jewel and community hub. The Hollywood Theatre now plays independent films and hosts film festivals, comedy shows, lectures, and continues the tradition of hosting community events. It is recognized by the national film community for its exceptional selection of films and support for local filmmakers through funding and consultation. Later this summer, travelers will be able to witness the theatre's newest project, a small theatre in the PDX airport, which will showcase short films by local artists. What better way to

wait for a flight than to grab a local microbrew and enjoy a local short film? No other airport in the Nation can boast such a treat.

The Hollywood Theatre is a testament to the Oregonian values: supporting small businesses, building and engaging local communities, making art accessible, and respecting and reviving historic landmarks. It exposes patrons to a wider variety of films than those offered by larger cinemas, often offering thought-provoking alternatives to blockbusters. In an age of multiplex theaters and in-home streaming services, it has taken a lot of passion for the Hollywood Theatre to pursue its mission and a lot of local support to keep it viable and flourishing. I would like to congratulate everyone who has been a part of its success. Hollywood Theatre. Thank you for inspiring countless people through film and community.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAINE'S ALLAGASH WILDERNESS WATERWAY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway in northern Maine. This 92-mile stretch of lake, shore, and river is a shining example of the dedication of the people of Maine to protect and preserve the natural beauty and heritage that define our great State.

For thousands of years, the Allagash was the hunting and fishing grounds of the Wabanaki, and the river's northerly flow provided an important transportation link between the Maine coast and the Saint John River. The Waterway's Native American heritage is found in such appellations as Umsaskis Lake and Musquacook Stream. In 1857, Henry David Thoreau explored the upper reaches of the Allagash during his third trip to the Maine woods and learned from his Penobscot guide that the river's name referred to the useful bark that could be harvested from the vast forests along its banks.

In the years that followed, the Allagash became a vital part of Maine's timber industry. While hiking through the region's remote wilderness, it is possible to come upon abandoned steam locomotives deep among the trees, remnants of the vast lumbering operations of the early 20th century. As the Allagash, rich with fish and game, became a favorite destination of outdoor enthusiasts from around the world, the surrounding woodlands have remained very much a part of Maine's working forest economy.

In 1966, the people of Maine recognized the special qualities of the Allagash and voted to protect it by approving a \$1.5 million bond to "develop the maximum wilderness character" of the river, and the Maine Legislature established the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Two years later, Maine Senator Edmund Muskie authored an amendment to the National Wild and

Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 that combined permanent Federal protection with permanent State administration. In 1970, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway was granted Federal designation as a wild river and became the first State-administered component of the National Wild and Scenic River System.

The Allagash Wilderness Waterway captures the essence of the great north woods. This 50th anniversary is the time to celebrate the commitment to safeguard for generations to come this special place that captures the essence of the people of Maine.

RECOGNIZING ATHLETIC TRAINERS

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, today I wish to call attention to a group of health care providers who play an important role in the patient care continuum—athletic trainers. These dedicated professionals who work in Iowa and across the United States provide valuable services to patients and make a real difference in the lives of those they treat.

Athletic trainers play a key role in their local communities. Many of them work in educational settings including colleges, universities, elementary schools, and secondary schools to keep student athletes safe. Others work in rehabilitation clinics, hospitals, fitness and community centers, or even for professional sports teams to prevent injury and help injured patients recover.

Because of the key preventative and rehabilitative services provided by athletic trainers, many patients are able to avoid unnecessary disruption of normal daily life. This enables folks to stay mobile and to contribute to their communities.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing athletic training as an important profession in our Nation's health care system and in expressing gratitude for the important impact these individuals have on promoting the overall health and well-being of the public.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES WALLNER

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I am pleased to compliment the extraordinary work of James Wallner for the U.S. Senate. James is one of the most intelligent, diligent, and principled Senate staffers I have ever known. He started in my office as a legislative assistant, then was promoted to be my legislative director. He impressed us all with his ability to master complex legislation, to get to the core of an issue, and to intelligently discuss it with regular Alabamians and national experts. He then became the staff director of the Steering Committee, where he also performed superbly. I was able to work closely with him during this time, also. In these roles, he has combined an acute intellectual interest in the Senate rules, along with a

strong interest in public policy and practical politics. James knows how rare is the beauty of the American Republic. He is a student of history and has worked relentlessly to preserve and enrich our heritage of law and policy.

He has a brilliant mind and is always thinking. A real conservative in the classical sense, James has constantly worked to undergird our spasmodic political system with the timeless principles that have made her great.

I am a great admirer. James represents the best in public service. He has rock-solid values, and he is unafraid to fight for them. The Senate's great loss will be the great gain of our most valuable Heritage Foundation. There, one can be sure he will continue to be a champion for America.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SINCLAIR OIL CORPORATION

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Sinclair Oil on its 100th anniversary of operations. Based in Wyoming, Sinclair Oil is one of the largest privately held, vertically integrated oil companies in America.

Sinclair Oil and Refining Corporation was founded in 1916 by Harry Ford Sinclair. Under his leadership, Sinclair opened America's first modern service stations in the 1920s. These stations offered gasoline, oil changes, car repairs, and, for the first time, public restrooms. With the establishment of this network of full service gasoline stations, Americans were finally able to experience what drivers have for nearly a century referred to as "the long road trip."

In the 1930s, the world suffered through the Great Depression. Sinclair Oil continued to operate during those tough times, expanding its national operations by acquiring dying competitors, and, more importantly, protecting hundreds of jobs at a time when employment was scarce. By 1935, the company had 20,000 employees, 8,100 company-owned or leased service stations, and 14,000 miles of pipelines.

It was also during this time that Sinclair introduced Dino the Dinosaur as the company's mascot and logo. Dino remains the face of Sinclair Oil and is one of America's best known oil industry mascots.

Following the retirement of Mr. Sinclair in 1948, the company continued to operate under various ownership groups until 1976, when Earl Holding purchased the company's assets. Earl Holding, like Harry Ford Sinclair, was a self-made man. As was the case of many in his generation, Mr. Holding grew up with nothing during the Great Depression. He learned early on that hard work and dedication to one's goals was the path to success.

Earl Holding's long business career began in 1952 when he and his wife,

Carol, invested in a motel and service station called Little America. Located in a remote area along what is now I-80 in Wyoming, the Holdings took 2 years to turn their single operation to profitability. They fell in love with Wyoming and the people they met, and it is where they raised their three children, Anne, Kathleen, and Stephen. With their business successful, they began building the Little America chain of hotels and gas stations that exist throughout the West today. Just prior to the Holding's purchase of Sinclair Oil in 1976, Little America became Sinclair Oil's biggest customer.

Today Sinclair Oil remains a vital player in providing American drivers with quality gasoline. Incorporated in Wyoming, the company owns refineries in Casper and Sinclair, WY. There are more than 1,300 Sinclair-branded stations located in 24 States. The company markets high-quality products, including DINO CARE™ TOP TIER™ Gasoline through a network of 400 distributors. Sinclair also operates a network of pipelines and terminals in the Rocky Mountain and midcontinent regions, and the company continues to invest in its workers and operations to insure reliable and affordable products for generations to come.

When Earl Holding passed away in 2013, Wyoming lost a remarkable individual. His love of family and community, and his commitment to hard work and pursuing one's dreams, led him to a life of tremendous success and fulfillment.

We are fortunate that his legacy continues through the Holding family businesses, particularly Sinclair Oil. Headed by current CEO and chairman of the board, Ross Matthews, the Holding family remains intimately involved in the company's activities, and the values Earl and Carol Holding lived their working lives by are still reflected in Sinclair Oil's company vision: Love of Country, Care for People, Commitment to Safety.

I invite all members of the Senate to join me in celebrating the 100-year anniversary of a truly American company, Sinclair Oil, and wishing the company, its employees, and the Holding family much success in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO VAL KUNTZ

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, in the Capitol in Washington, DC, there is a corridor that highlights the discovery and expansion of America. Just above one of the doors, there is a quote that reminds me of the people who have helped shape Montana, and that makes me proud to be a Westerner. The quote from Horace Greenley reads, "Go West, young men, go West and grow up with the country."

Today I honor a man who has grown up in the city of Belgrade, MT. Valentine Kuntz was born and raised on the family farm after his parents immigrated to America from Russia. Folks know him as Val, but many may not

know the role he has played in serving and building Belgrade.

Val has served his country honorably throughout his life. As a young man he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was stationed in the Pacific theater during World War II. On September 2, 1945, Val was a part of the 200 ships sitting in Pearl Harbor when the Japanese surrendered and ended the war.

After the war, Val served as a sawmill operator and business owner in Belgrade. The city of Belgrade owes thanks to Val for his part in constructing the Catholic church and the goalposts for the Belgrade High School football field. Val was also the entrepreneur behind the first fourplex housing unit in Belgrade.

Together, Val and his wife, Betsy, have raised nine children, four of whom inherited the talent and building trades from their father. Today their children continue his legacy by working on construction projects all over the world. However, out of all of his achievements, his children are his pride and joy.

On July 23, 2016, Val will celebrate his 90th birthday, surrounded by family and friends. Thank you for the long hours and hard work that helped build Belgrade, MT. I am so grateful for all that you have done and all that your children continue to do, and I wish you a very happy birthday.●

TRIBUTE TO KELLY AND CINDY REID

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, "If we all do one random act of kindness daily, we just might set the world in the right direction." These are inspiring words and a mantra for the Miles City nonprofit Wake Up & Lace Up. But for Kelly and Cindy Reid, this quote is a lifestyle, and for the last 34 years this couple has selflessly volunteered their time to setting the community of Miles City in the right direction. Together they have brought economic growth and national recognition to this town of nearly 9,000 people. They are an active couple and have used sports and athletic events to bring people from their community, Montana, and neighboring States together.

Cindy uses running and athletics as a powerful motivator. As a survivor of acute myelogenous leukemia, she used exercise as a way to work through her illness. From this experience she co-founded Wake Up & Lace Up, which provides direct funding to eastern Montana family to help cover the costs of cancer treatment. These costs include travel expenses and even wigs to chemotherapy patients. For one family, they even provided a stroller to accommodate a family of triplets. When dealt a hard hand, she turned her hardship into an opportunity to extend kindness and has inspired many others to her cause. Altogether the organization has provided nearly \$103,000 to 157 patients and their families in Miles City, Forsyth, Colstrip, Hysham, Jordan,

Broadus, Baker, Sidney, Plentywood, Fairview, and Circle.

Along with her nonprofit, Cindy inspires young girls through multiple athletic programs in her area. Cindy has coached fifth and sixth grade girls traveling basketball teams, girls' softball, and track and field at Washington Middle School and Custer County District High School. Over the years, she has organized multiple athletic events such as Range Runners, Row Run & Ride, and the Badlands Bowl Fun Run.

When she isn't running, coaching, or raising money, you can find Cindy playing piano at the Sacred Heart Parish.

Her husband and teammate is Miles City native, Kelly Reid. Over the years Kelly has brought economic growth to Miles City through a variety of businesses and events. After serving 2 years in the Army and working as an air traffic controller in Salt Lake, UT, Kelly moved back to his hometown and has been promoting others to be a part of Miles City ever since.

Kelly has coordinated numerous events, including boxing matches with Olympic boxer Todd Foster, concerts with Willie Nelson and Merle Haggard, the 1995 Cattle Drive, and most recognizably the Montana North Dakota All Star Football game.

Every year, this game recruits 34 of the best senior players from each State and brings them together in June to raise money for the Knights of Columbus. Over 1,500 players have participated since the inaugural game and brings together over 2,500 friends, families, and fans. The game showcases Montana talent and instills camaraderie and healthy competition into these young men. USA Today even recognized the event as the "No. 1 Montana Community Event" in 1998.

They have played an irreplaceable role in the lives of so many. Their good deeds and hard work has affected citizens all over Custer County, MT, and North Dakota and improves the lives of Miles City citizens every day. Thank you for the tireless and selfless dedication you have for your community.●

CONGRATULATING ATHENA
TUREK-HANKINS AND DANIEL
SAFTNER

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize two of Nevada's brightest students, Athena Turek-Hankins and Daniel Saftner, on being selected as 2016 recipients of the Fulbright scholarship.

The Fulbright Scholar Program was developed shortly after World War II by former U.S. Senator James William Fulbright to promote the exchange of students in the fields of education, culture, and science. Today the program offers 1,900 grants each year for students to study in various fields in more than 140 countries worldwide. As a highly competitive and prestigious scholarship, thousands of students and young professionals apply from across

the country. I am proud to congratulate these two students on their achievement. These students are shining examples of how hard work leads to success, and they stand as role models for future members of the Nevada Wolf Pack.

Ms. Turek-Hankins recently graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno, UNR, as an honors student and received her bachelor's degree in international affairs with a special emphasis in Middle Eastern affairs. She also earned a bachelor's degree in French and a minor in philosophy of ethics, law, and politics. Ms. Turek-Hankins will be teaching English in Luxembourg this coming fall through the Fulbright scholarship and will have the opportunity to expand her knowledge on European economics.

Mr. Saftner received his bachelor's degree from UNR in geology in 2011. His studies focused more specifically on climate change. He is currently pursuing his master's degree from the university in hydrogeology from the Graduate Program of Hydrologic Sciences. In addition, he spent 2 years in Cameroon, Africa, as a volunteer in the Peace Corps. His Fulbright scholarship will allow him the opportunity to return to Africa in Niger, West Africa. While there, Mr. Saftner will research the variations of groundwater quality in the rural areas of Southwest Niger and participate in a global effort to increase access to safe drinking water in developing countries.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these exceptional young Nevadans. I am proud to have them representing both Nevada and UNR as global ambassadors through the Fulbright scholarship. These students worked hard for this incredible opportunity, and I wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.●

RECOGNIZING VANDERBURG
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate John C. Vanderburg Elementary School on its team of fifth grade students and facilitator selected as a national winner in the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program, SSEP. This team of students should be proud of its achievement as 1 of 11 national winners selected for the opportunity to have their experiment conducted on the International Space Station.

Facilitator William Gilluly and student investigators Shani Abeyakoon, Kendall Allgower, and Avery Sanford created a winning proposal titled, "Soybean Germination in Microgravity." The experiment seeks to gain further clarity on whether soybeans can be used as a vitamin and nutrient-dense food source for astronauts during long-term space travel. The experiment is expected to be conducted on the space flight scheduled to take place in early 2017. During this time, astronauts will activate the experiment as the stu-

dents conduct the same experiment on land, ultimately comparing the results to evaluate the effects of microgravity on the germination of seeds.

SSEP is a national science, technology, engineering, and math educational program with the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education, which works to inspire future generations of scientists and engineers. I extend my sincerest congratulations to these Nevada students selected as winners of the SSEP competition. They stand as role models to future Vanderburg Elementary students of what hard work and determination can accomplish.

I am excited to see local students bringing recognition to both Nevada and Vanderburg Elementary School for their advancement in a national competition. These students should be proud to call themselves top contenders in a competitive environment. I ask my colleagues to join me and all Nevadans in congratulating Vanderburg Elementary School for its success and honorable representation of Nevada.●

TRIBUTE TO RAY HARRY

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I congratulate Ray Harry on his recent retirement after 40 years at Southern Company.

Ray started with Southern Company back in 1976 as an environmental licensing specialist at Gulf Power in his home State of Florida. Since then, he has held numerous senior positions dealing with environmental policy both at Gulf Power and at Southern Company itself. Most recently, he served as senior director of governmental affairs in the company's Washington, DC, office, responsible for the direction and management of all Federal environmental issues. He represented Southern with great distinction before Federal policymakers in both Congress and the executive branch, with international policymaking bodies such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and as part of various coalitions and trade associations in Washington, DC.

During his many years of service, I had the privilege of getting to know Ray and of working with him on a number of important environmental issues facing our country. He was always honest, straightforward, and eager to share his deep experience and policy expertise. More than that, his soft-spoken manner and quick, wry sense of humor made him a pleasure to be around. I congratulate Ray on his retirement and wish him and his wife, Sheila, all the best in their coming adventures.●

RECOGNIZING MORRIS & DICKSON
CO., LLC

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, oftentimes the truest test of a small business's strength is its longevity. In

Louisiana, our small businesses have worked through countless challenges and survived for generations to improve the lives of their neighbors and make substantial contributions to the economy. In honor of their 175th anniversary, I would like to present Morris & Dickson Co., LLC of Shreveport, LA, with the Senate Small Business Legacy Award for the important achievements of this Louisiana-based small business success story.

In 1841, John Worthington Morris opened J. W. Morris & Co., an independent pharmacy in downtown Shreveport, LA. Working out of a single riverfront warehouse, J.W. first received goods by steamboat from New Orleans and with the help of his brother, Thomas Henry, ran his namesake small business until his death 12 years later. A second generation of the Morris family continued J.W.'s legacy until Claudius Dickson bought the business in 1899, renaming it to be Morris & Dickson Co. Claudius worked with members of the Morris family to grow their wholesale pharmaceutical business. As technology improved, with new railway lines and gasoline-powered trucks, Morris & Dickson Co. embraced the revolutionary improvements to distribute their pharmaceuticals in Louisiana and the surrounding States.

In order to survive the Civil War, the Great Depression, as well as the day-to-day struggles of running a successful business, the leaders of Morris & Dickson Co. took advantage of each technological improvement to ensure the company would stay afloat.

It wasn't until the 1980s that Morris & Dickson Co. grew exponentially and became a nationally recognized competitor. At the time, Morris & Dickson Co. was working out of the same building it had first moved into in 1905. Nearly eight decades later, they were still transporting goods in a manual freight elevator and used a dumbwaiter or rope bucket to send orders upstairs. Claudius's son Markham Allen Dickson recognized that major changes had to be made and, much like his predecessors, had an immense respect for technology's growing influence. M. Allen's foresight and ingenuity allowed the family-owned business to grow to become the region's leading wholesale drug distributor. He moved the company out of downtown Shreveport, utilized the early use of computers, and under his leadership, Morris & Dickson Co. exploded on the national wholesale pharmaceutical scene. By 2013, Morris & Dickson Co. was the fourth largest pharmaceutical distributor in the nation.

Still driven by the 175-year old ambition to elevate the standard of patient care for their neighbors and community, today Morris & Dickson Co. is run by M. Allen's son, Paul Dickson. Morris & Dickson Co. has a well-earned reputation for persevering through many hardships by embracing innovation in order to harness the power of an ever-changing economy and increasingly technology driven world.

Today Morris & Dickson Co. provides operational and logistic innovation support for independent pharmacies. This includes everything from on-time delivery of pharmaceutical inventory to inventory management software. With Morris & Dickson Co.'s help, independent pharmacies in 14 States can focus on supporting and improving the health of their local communities, while also remaining financially solvent.

This Shreveport-based family-run business is a great example of the American Dream in action, and companies like Morris & Dickson certainly serve as role models for the next generation of entrepreneurs. I congratulate the hard-working folks at Morris & Dickson Co., LLC, on 175 years in business and for the well-deserved honor of the Senate Small Business Legacy Award. ●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting nominations which were referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:32 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 304. An act to improve motor vehicle safety by encouraging the sharing of certain information.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5119. An act to prohibit the obligation or expenditure of funds available to any Federal department or agency for any fiscal year to purchase or issue a license for the purchase of heavy water produced in Iran.

H.R. 5722. An act to establish the John F. Kennedy Centennial Commission.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 10:21 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 2840. An act to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds for active shooter training, and for other purposes.

H.R. 636. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the

airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4875. An act to establish the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 11:36 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 524. An act to authorize the Attorney General and Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to address the prescription opioid abuse and heroin use crisis, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 2:33 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 5588. An act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2016, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

At 4:28 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, without amendment:

S. 2893. An act to reauthorize the sound recording and film preservation programs of the Library of Congress, and for other purposes.

S. 3055. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a dental insurance plan to veterans and survivors and dependents of veterans.

S. 3207. An act to authorize the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to provide playback equipment in all formats.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4992. An act to codify regulations relating to transfers of funds involving Iran, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5631. An act to hold Iran accountable for its state sponsorship of terrorism and other threatening activities and for its human rights abuses, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 764) to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 805. An act to provide for certain requirements relating to the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority stewardship transition; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1560. An act to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance multi-directional sharing of information related to cybersecurity risks and strengthen privacy and civil liberties protections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1567. An act to authorize a comprehensive, strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to reduce global poverty and hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, promote inclusive, sustainable agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilience among vulnerable populations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 1732. An act to preserve existing rights and responsibilities with respect to waters of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 1734. An act to amend subtitle D of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to encourage recovery and beneficial use of coal combustion residuals and establish requirements for the proper management and disposal of coal combustion residuals that are protective of human health and the environment; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 2646. An act to make available needed psychiatric, psychological, and supportive services for individuals with mental illness and families in mental health crisis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 3460. An act to suspend until January 21, 2017, the authority of the President to waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of sanctions pursuant to an agreement related to the nuclear program of Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 3495. An act to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to allow for greater State flexibility with respect to excluding providers who are involved in abortions; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 4084. An act to enable civilian research and development of advanced nuclear energy technologies by private and public institutions and to expand theoretical and practical knowledge of nuclear physics, chemistry, and materials science; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4444. An act to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to exclude power supply circuits, drivers, and devices designed to be connected to, and power, light-emitting diodes or organic light-emitting diodes providing illumination from energy conservation standards for external power supplies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4470. An act to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act with respect to the requirements related to lead in drinking water, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 4992. An act to codify regulations relating to transfers of funds involving Iran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 5119. An act to prohibit the obligation or expenditure of funds available to any Federal department or agency for any fiscal year to purchase or issue a license for the purchase of heavy water produced in Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 5631. An act to hold Iran accountable for its state sponsorship of terrorism and other threatening activities and for its human rights abuses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 10. An act to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4465. An act to decrease the deficit by consolidating and selling Federal buildings and other civilian real property, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4487. An act to reduce costs of Federal real estate, improve building security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4901. An act to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes.

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 897. An act to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify Congressional intent regarding the regulation of the use of pesticides in or near navigable waters, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2042. An act to allow for judicial review of any final rule addressing carbon dioxide emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units before requiring compliance with such rule, and to allow States to protect households and businesses from significant adverse effects on electricity ratepayers or reliability.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, July 14, 2016, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 524. An act to authorize the Attorney General and Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to address the prescription opioid abuse and heroin use crisis, and for other purposes.

S. 2840. An act to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds for active shooter training, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6155. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6156. A communication from the Secretary of the Air Force, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Program

Acquisition Unit Cost (PAUC) breach for the Next Generation Operational Control System (OCX); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6157. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, the National Guard Youth Challenge Program 2015 annual report; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6158. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2015 annual report relative to the STARBASE Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6159. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6160. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules of Practice and Procedure" (RIN3064-AE43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6161. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Record Retention Requirements" (RIN3064-AE25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6162. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Treatment of Financial Assets Transferred in Connection With a Securitization or Participation" (RIN3064-AE38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6163. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations on the Outer Continental Shelf—Requirements for Exploratory Drilling on the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf" ((RIN1082-AA00) (Docket ID BSEE-2013-0011)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 8, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6164. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Quality Designations for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard - Round 2" (FRL No. 9948-87-OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 8, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6165. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-037); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6166. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-028); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6167. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-017); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6168. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 15-077); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6169. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2016-0084—2016-0086); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6170. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Bureau of the Fiscal Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sale and Issue of Marketable Book-Entry Treasury Bills, Notes, and Bonds" (31 CFR Part 356) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6171. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Setting Forth Rules for the DL Program and 6-year Remedial Amendment Cycle System" (Rev. Proc. 2016-37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6172. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-89; Introduction" (FAC 2005-89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6173. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Small Business Subcontracting Improvements" ((RIN9000-AM91) (FAC 2005-89)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6174. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Technical Amendments" (FAC 2005-89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6175. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-89; Small Entity Compliance Guide" (FAC 2005-89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6176. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Revision to Standard Forms for Bonds" ((RIN9000-AN11) (FAC 2005-89)) re-

ceived in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6177. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FPI Blanket Waiver Threshold" ((RIN9000-AN22) (FAC 2005-89)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6178. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; OMB Circular Citation Update" ((RIN9000-AN17) (FAC 2005-89)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6179. A communication from the Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's amended fiscal year 2015 report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6180. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-429, "Fair Shot Minimum Wage Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6181. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-430, "New Bethany Baptist Church Real Property Tax Exemption Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6182. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-431, "Medical Marijuana Cultivation Center Expansion Temporary Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6183. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-432, "Sale to Minors Penalty Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6184. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-443, "Fiscal Year 2016 Second Revised Budget Request Temporary Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6185. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-444, "Sale of Synthetic Drugs Temporary Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6186. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-445, "Mandatory Driver Instruction Regulation Temporary Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6187. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-446, "Fieldstone Lane Des-

ignation Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6188. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-447, "Carry's Way and Guethler's Court Designation Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6189. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Grants to Tribal Colleges and Universities and Dine College" (RIN1076-AF08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2016; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-6190. A communication from the Office Program Manager, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Authority to Solicit Gifts and Donations" (RIN2900-AP75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2016; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-6191. A communication from the Deputy Chief of the Cybersecurity and Communications Reliability Division, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Part 4 - Disruptions to Communications" ((FCC 16-63) (PS Docket Nos. 15-80, 11-82, and ET Docket No. 04-35)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6192. A communication from the Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's decision to enter into a contract with a private security screening company to provide screening services at Charles M. Schulz-Sonoma County Airport (STS); to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6193. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations (Cordele, Georgia)" ((MB Docket No. 16-123) (DA 16-711)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 8, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6194. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations (Tolleson, Arizona)" ((MB Docket No. 16-93) (DA 16-713)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 8, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6195. A communication from the Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's decision to enter into a contract with a private security screening company to provide screening services at San Francisco International Airport (SFO); to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-197. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of New Hampshire urging the United States Congress, pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution, to call a convention of the states for the sole and exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to the United States Constitution that would provide for a balanced budget; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 40

Whereas, with each passing year this nation becomes deeply in debt as its expenditures grossly and repeatedly exceed available revenues so that the public debt now exceeds \$12 trillion; and

Whereas, attempts to limit spending, including the impoundment of funds by the President of the United States, have resulted in strenuous assertions that the responsibility for appropriations is the constitutional duty of the Congress; and

Whereas, the annual federal budget repeatedly demonstrates the unwillingness or inability of both the legislative and executive branches of the federal government to curtail spending to conform to available revenues; and

Whereas, the unified budget does not reflect actual spending because of the exclusion of special outlays which are not in the budget; and

Whereas, knowledgeable planning and fiscal prudence require that the budget reflect all federal spending and that the budget be in balance; and

Whereas, believing that fiscal irresponsibility at the federal level is one of the greatest economic threats which faces our nation, we firmly believe that constitutional restraint is necessary to bring the fiscal discipline needed to reverse this trend; and

Whereas, the mounting debt level is putting our country not only at economic security risk, but it is opening our country up to a national security risk as our debt level restricts our capacity to act and shows weakness to our enemies; and

Whereas, under Article V of the Constitution of the United States, amendments to the United States Constitution may be proposed by the Congress whenever two-thirds of both Houses deem it necessary, or on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states the Congress shall call a constitutional convention for the purpose of proposing amendments; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the New Hampshire general court hereby petitions the Congress of the United States of America to adopt an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, for submission to the states for ratification, requiring, with certain exceptions, that for each fiscal year the president of the United States submit and the Congress of the United States adopt a balanced federal budget; or

That pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States, the New Hampshire general court makes application to the Congress of the United States of America to call a convention for the specific and exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, for submission to the states for ratification, requiring, with certain exceptions, that for

each fiscal year the president of the United States submit and the Congress of the United States adopt a balanced federal budget; and

That if Congress adopts, within 90 days after the legislatures of two-thirds of the states have made application for such convention, an amendment to the Constitution of the United States similar in subject matter to that contained in this resolution, then this application for a convention shall no longer be of any force or effect; and

That this application and request be deemed null and void, rescinded, and of no effect in the event that such convention not be limited to the aforementioned specific and exclusive purpose of a Federal Balanced Budget Amendment; and

That this application shall be deemed null and void, rescinded, and of no effect in the event the United States Supreme Court rules that a convention cannot be limited to the subject stated in 34 such applications; and

That this application by the New Hampshire general court constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until at least two-thirds of the Legislatures of the several states have made application for a similar convention pursuant to Article V or Congress has proposed an amendment to the Constitution of the United States similar in subject matter to that contained in this concurrent resolution; and

That certified copies of this concurrent resolution be transmitted by the house clerk to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to each member of the New Hampshire delegation to the Congress, and to the presiding officer of each house of each state legislature in the United States.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 1475. A bill to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

H.R. 3004. A bill to amend the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 485. A resolution to encourage the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to abide by constitutional provisions regarding the holding of presidential elections in 2016, with the aim of ensuring a peaceful and orderly democratic transition of power.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 515. A resolution welcoming Prime Minister Lee Hsien-Loong to the United States and reaffirming Singapore's strategic partnership with the United States, encompassing broad and robust economic, military-to-military, law enforcement, and counterterrorism cooperation.

S. Res. 524. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the conflict in Yemen.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 3028. A bill to redesignate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with amendments:

S. Con. Res. 41. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress on the Peshmerga of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 42. A concurrent resolution to express the sense of Congress regarding the safe and expeditious resettlement to Albania of all residents of Camp Liberty.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Con. Res. 46. A concurrent resolution expressing support for the goal of ensuring that all Holocaust victims live with dignity, comfort, and security in their remaining years, and urging the Federal Republic of Germany to continue to reaffirm its commitment to comprehensively address the unique health and welfare needs of vulnerable Holocaust victims, including home care and other medically prescribed needs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CORKER for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*Anne Hall, of Maine, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Lithuania.

Nominee: Anne Hall.

Post: COM Lithuania.

The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.

Contributions amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.
2. Spouse: n/a.
3. Children and Spouses: n/a.
4. Parents: Rose Anne Hall: none, Bradford Allyn Hall: none.
5. Grandparents: Mona J. Greenlaw (deceased), Lloyd S. Greenlaw (deceased), Milton Bradford Hall (deceased), Minna S. Hall (deceased).
6. Brothers and Spouses: n/a.
7. Sisters and Spouses: Susan Hall and Scott Rodgers: none.

*Lawrence Robert Silverman, of Massachusetts, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Kuwait.

Nominee: Lawrence Robert Silverman.

Post: Kuwait.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: 0.
2. Spouse: 0.
3. Children and Spouses: 0.
4. Parents: 0.
5. Grandparents: N/A.
6. Brothers and Spouses: 0.
7. Sisters and Spouses: N/A.

*Carol Z. Perez, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of

Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Chile.

Nominee: Carol Zelis Perez.
Post: Chile.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.
2. Spouse: Abelardo I. Perez: (see continuation sheet).
3. Children and Spouses: Michael Perez: none; Caroline Berry: none; Jacob Berry: none; Marisa Perez: none.
4. Parents: John Zelis: none; Irene Zelis: none;
5. Grandparents: Frances Grabowski—deceased; Joseph Grabowski—deceased; John Zelis—deceased; Helen Zelis—deceased.

*Geoffrey R. Pyatt, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Greece.

Nominee: Geoffrey R. Pyatt.
Post: Athens.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.
2. Spouse: none.
3. Children and Spouses: Mary D. Pyatt, William R. Pyatt, Claire M. Pyatt: none.
4. Parents: Kedar D. Pyatt, Jr., Mary M. Pyatt: none.
5. Grandparents: N/A.
6. Brothers and Spouses: David B. Pyatt/Jamie Pyatt: none.
7. Sisters and Spouses: Kira & Eric Lynch, Rebecca & Darren Quinn: none.

*Douglas Alan Silliman, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Iraq.

Nominee: Douglas Alan Silliman.

Post: Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.
2. Spouse: Catherine R. Silliman: none.
3. Children and Spouses: Benjamin D. Silliman: none; Zachary J. Silliman: none.
4. Parents: Robert H. Silliman: none; Elsie P. Skidmore Silliman: (deceased).
5. Grandparents: Chauncey H. Silliman (deceased); Mildred Silliman (deceased); Roy H. Skidmore (deceased); Pearl H. B. Skidmore (deceased).
6. Brothers and Spouses: Gregory S. Silliman: none; Mary Adelsberger: none.
7. Sisters and Spouses: none.

*Marie L. Yovanovitch, of Connecticut, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Ukraine.

Nominee: Marie Louise Yovanovitch.

Post: Kyiv.

Nominated: 5/19/16.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.
2. Spouse: N/A.
3. Children and Spouses: N/A.
4. Parents: Nadia Yovanovitch, \$1.00, 5/3/16, Woman Card/Hillary for America; Michel Yovanovitch, Deceased.
5. Grandparents: Michael & Louise Theokritoff, Deceased; Ivan & Maria Yovanovitch, Deceased.
6. Brothers and Spouses: Andre Yovanovitch.
Sisters and Spouses: N/A.

*Peter Michael McKinley, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federative Republic of Brazil.

Nominee: Peter Michael McKinley.

Post: Embassy Kabul (current).

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.
2. Spouse: Fatima McKinley: none.
3. Children and Spouses: Peter McKinley: None; Claire McKinley: none; Sarah McKinley: none.
4. Parents: Peter McKinley (father): My father, who is 89 this year, remembers giving about \$20 a year to the Republican National Committee and \$20 a year to the Connecticut Republicans. He remembers doing so each of the past four years (back to 2010). He does not keep past records. He did give \$15 to the National Republican Congressional Committee on March 28, 2014; Enriqueta McKinley (mother): Deceased, 2001.

Grandparents: Lindsay and Marjorie McKinley: Deceased before 1990; Francisco and Vicenta Liano: Deceased before 1960.

Brothers and Spouses: Brian McKinley: none; Rocio McKinley (spouse): none.

Sisters and Spouses: Margaret McKinley: \$25, 2011, Democratic CCC. \$45, 2013, Democratic CCC; Hyde Clark (spouse): none.

*Mark Sobel, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund for a term of two years.

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Jennifer Klemetsrud Puhl, of North Dakota, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit.

Donald C. Coggins, Jr., of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

David C. Nye, of Idaho, to be United States District Judge for the District of Idaho.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 3210. A bill to identify and combat corruption in countries, to establish a tiered system of countries with respect to levels of corruption by their governments and their efforts to combat such corruption, and to assess United States assistance to designated countries in order to advance anti-corruption efforts in those countries and better serve United States taxpayers; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 3211. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a national Oncology Medical Home Demonstration Project under the Medicare program for the purpose of changing the Medicare payment for cancer care in order to enhance the quality of care and to improve cost efficiency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 3212. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program to recognize farms that have been in continuous operation for 100 years; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 3213. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for transparency of payments made from the Judgment Fund; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 3214. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to allow all eligible voters to vote by mail in Federal elections, to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide for automatic voter registration; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. ROUNDS:

S. 3215. A bill to amend the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975 to specify which depository institutions are subject to the maintenance of records and disclosure requirements of such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. ERNST, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 3216. A bill to repeal the Act entitled "An Act to confer jurisdiction on the State of Iowa over offenses committed by or against Indians on the Sac and Fox Indian Reservation"; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 3217. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for an annuity supplement for certain air traffic controllers; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 3218. A bill to remove the limitation on certain amounts for which large non-rural hospitals may be reimbursed under the Healthcare Connect Fund of the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 3219. A bill to provide standards for physical condition and management of housing receiving assistance payments under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of

1937; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 3220. A bill to amend the Fair Housing Act to establish that certain conduct, in or around a dwelling, shall be considered to be severe or pervasive for purposes of determining whether a certain type of sexual harassment has occurred under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. UDALL):

S. 3221. A bill to withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land from mineral development; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 3222. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assess sanitation and safety conditions at Bureau of Indian Affairs facilities that were constructed to provide treaty tribes access to traditional fishing grounds and expend funds on construction of facilities and structures to improve those conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LEAHY, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 3223. A bill to increase funding to reduce opioid use disorders and overdose, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3224. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to add certain synthetic substances to schedule I, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 3225. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to require the Attorney General to make procurement quotas for opioid analgesics publicly available, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. 3226. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a registry of certain veterans who participated in a radiation cleanup mission in the Enewetak Atoll in the Marshall Islands during the period beginning on January 1, 1977, and ending on December 31, 1980, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 3227. A bill to direct the President to establish an interagency mechanism to coordinate United States development programs and private sector investment activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT):

S. 3228. A bill to require the Secretary of the Army to conduct a study of coastal areas in the South Atlantic Division of the Corps of Engineers to identify risks and vulnerabilities of those areas as a result of seas level rise, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3229. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to adjust limitations on certain Farm Service Agency guaranteed and direct loans; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 3230. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish an initiative,

carried out by the Assistant Secretary for Aging, to coordinate Federal efforts and programs for home modifications enabling older individuals to live independently and safely in a home environment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3231. A bill to establish a policy framework that offers and rewards work, strengthens the incentive to work, greatly reduces poverty, and creates new jobs in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 3232. A bill to revise repayment terms for certain loans made under the Lowell National Historical Park Historic Preservation Loan Program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. BURR):

S. 3233. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit fully refundable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 3234. A bill to amend the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000, the Buy Indian Act, the Indian Trader Act, and the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide industry and economic development opportunities to Indian communities; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 3235. A bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal to the troops who defended Bataan during World War II; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 3236. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a system to educate individuals approaching Medicare eligibility, to simplify and modernize the eligibility enrollment process, and to provide for additional assistance for complaints and requests of Medicare beneficiaries that relate to their enrollment in the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3237. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 3238. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that electrochromic glass qualifies as energy property for purposes of the energy credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 3239. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish a program to provide additional incentives for the development of new drugs to treat pediatric cancers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 3240. A bill to prohibit the use of premiums paid to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation as an offset for other Federal spending; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 3241. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reaffirm the United

States historic commitment to protecting refugees who are fleeing persecution or torture; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. AYOTTE:

S. 3242. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide the opportunity for responsible health savings to all American families; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GARDNER:

S. 3243. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to help rebuild and renew rural communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 3244. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to clarify the treatment of pediatric dental coverage in the individual and group markets outside of Exchanges established under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. BURR):

S. 3245. A bill to amend title VIII of the Public Health Service Act to extend advanced education nursing grants to support clinical nurse specialist programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 3246. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend authority for operation of the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 3247. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude corporations operating prisons from the definition of taxable REIT subsidiary; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 3248. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make qualified biogas property and qualified manure resource recovery property eligible for the energy credit and to permit new clean renewable energy bonds to finance qualified biogas property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 3249. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend authorities relating to homeless veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. UDALL:

S. 3250. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the system of public financing for Presidential elections, to establish a system of public financing for Presidential elections, to establish a system of public financing for Congressional elections, to promote the disclosure of disbursements made in coordination with campaigns for election for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. LANFORD, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. BURR):

S. 3251. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exemption to the individual mandate to maintain health coverage for certain individuals whose premium has increased by more than 10 percent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 3252. A bill to require States to automatically register eligible voters to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mrs. ERNST):

S. 3253. A bill to require the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to provide notice and comment rulemaking for the revised enforcement policy relating to the exemption of retail facilities from coverage of the process safety management of highly hazardous chemicals standard under section 1910.119(a)(2)(i) of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 3254. A bill to provide for a land exchange involving certain National Forest System land in the State of South Dakota, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. TOOMEY:

S. 3255. A bill to gather information about the illicit production of illicit fentanyl in foreign countries and to withhold bilateral assistance from countries that do not have emergency scheduling procedures for new illicit drugs, cannot prosecute criminals for the manufacture or distribution of controlled substance analogues, or do not require the registration of tableting machines and encapsulating machines; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3256. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance for developing countries to promote quality basic education and to establish the goal of all children in school and learning as an objective of the United States foreign assistance policy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 3257. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently modify the limitations on the deduction of interest by financial institutions which hold tax-exempt bonds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 3258. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act and the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to delay the inclusion in consumer credit reports and to establish requirements for debt collectors with respect to medical debt information of veterans due to inappropriate or delayed billing payments or reimbursements from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 3259. A bill to establish scientific standards and protocols across forensic disciplines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 3260. A bill to provide liability protection for volunteer pilots who fly for the public benefit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. UDALL):

S. 3261. A bill to establish a business incubators program within the Department of the Interior to promote economic development in Indian reservation communities; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 3262. A bill to treat all controlled substance analogues, other than chemical sub-

stances subject to the Toxic Substances Control Act, as controlled substances in schedule I regardless of whether they are intended for human consumption; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 3263. A bill to promote innovation and realize the efficiency gains and economic benefits of on-demand computing by accelerating the acquisition and deployment of innovative technology and computing resources throughout the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 3264. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the credit for production of electricity from renewable resources to allow a credit for certain open-loop biomass and trash facilities placed in service before the date of the enactment of this Act and to modify the definition of municipal solid waste; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 3265. A bill to improve rail passenger safety by prohibiting individuals convicted of driving under the influence from holding a license or certification authorizing them to operate a commuter train; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3266. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from taxable income any student loan forgiveness or discharge; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORKER (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 3267. A bill to protect against threats posed by Iran to the United States and allies of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. HELLER):

S. 3268. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require all United States entities to have an employer identification number issued by the Secretary of the Treasury, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 3269. A bill to require the Attorney General to make a determination as to whether cannabidiol should be a controlled substance and listed in a schedule under the Controlled Substances Act and to expand research on the potential medical benefits of cannabidiol and other marijuana components; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. BENNETT):

S. 3270. A bill to prevent elder abuse and exploitation and improve the justice system's response to victims in elder abuse and exploitation cases; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BENNETT (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 3271. A bill to amend the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 regarding dual or concurrent enrollment programs and early college high schools; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 3272. A bill to provide that members of the Armed Forces performing services in the

Sinai Peninsula of Egypt shall be entitled to tax benefits in the same manner as if such services were performed in a combat zone; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 3273. A bill to make technical corrections to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 3274. A bill to counter foreign disinformation and propaganda, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KIRK:

S. 3275. A bill to increase the maximum guaranteed benefits with respect to certain participants of a pilots' pension plan; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. LEE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. VITTER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 3276. A bill to make habitual drunk drivers inadmissible and removable and to require the detention of any alien who is unlawfully present in the United States and has been charged with driving under the influence or driving while intoxicated; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 3277. A bill to provide penalties for countries that systematically and unreasonably refuse or delay repatriation of certain nationals and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 3278. A bill to establish an improved regulatory process to prevent the introduction and establishment in the United States of injurious wildlife; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. KING, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 3279. A bill to realign structures and reallocate resources in the Federal Government in keeping with the core belief that families are the best protection for children and the bedrock of any society to bolster United States diplomacy targeted at ensuring that every child can grow up in a permanent, safe, nurturing, and loving family, and to ensure that intercountry adoption to the United States becomes a viable and fully developed option for providing families for children in need, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. NELSON):

S. 3280. A bill to provide for a Public Health Emergency Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WARNER, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3281. A bill to extend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 3282. A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act,

and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 3283. A bill to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Pueblo, Colorado, as the "PFC James Dunn VA Clinic"; considered and passed.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. PERDUE):

S.J. Res. 37. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule relating to the extent to which an employer may offer an inducement to an employee for the employee's spouse to provide information about the spouse's manifestation of disease or disorder in connection with an employer-sponsored wellness program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. PERDUE):

S.J. Res. 38. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule relating to the extent to which employers may use incentives to encourage employees to participate in wellness programs that ask the employees to respond to disability-related inquiries or undergo medical examinations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 535. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the trafficking of illicit fentanyl into the United States from Mexico and China; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. Res. 536. A resolution proclaiming the week of October 30 through November 5, 2016, as "National Obesity Care Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. NELSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KIRK, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. Res. 537. A resolution expressing profound concern about the ongoing political, economic, social and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, urging the release of political prisoners, and calling for respect of constitutional and democratic processes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. NELSON):

S. Res. 538. A resolution designating September 2016 as "National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. Res. 539. A resolution condemning the horrific acts of violence and hatred in Dallas, Texas, on July 7, 2016, and expressing support and prayers for all those impacted by the tragedy; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. Res. 540. A resolution commending the officers of the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service for their work in fighting Ebola; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. Res. 541. A resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and Haleakala National Park in the State of Hawaii, and designating August 1, 2016, as "Hawaii Volcanoes and Haleakala National Parks Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. Res. 542. A resolution recognizing the 70th anniversary and the importance of the Lanham Act by designating July 2016 as "National Anti-Counterfeiting Consumer Education and Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. NELSON):

S. Res. 543. A resolution commemorating the past success of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams and supporting the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams in the 2016 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 544. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding compliance enforcement of Russian violations of the Open Skies Treaty; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. STABENOW:

S. Res. 545. A resolution supporting the designation of July 15, 2016, as "Leiomyosarcoma Awareness Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. Res. 546. A resolution honoring the centennial of the United States Grain Standards Act; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. Res. 547. A resolution recognizing the 75th anniversary of the American Tree Farm System; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Res. 548. A resolution celebrating the 40th anniversary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Viking Mission Landing on the surface of Mars; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Con. Res. 48. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Italian Supreme Court of Cassation should domesticate and recognize judgments issued by United States courts on behalf of United States victims of terrorism, and that the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs should cease its political interference with Italy's independent judiciary, which it carries out in the interests of state sponsors of terrorism such as the Islamic Republic of Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. Con. Res. 49. A concurrent resolution supporting efforts to stop the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items of Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians in the United States and internationally; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Con. Res. 50. A concurrent resolution providing for an adjournment of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 366

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Delaware

(Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 366, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors 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. 428

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 428, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide for 12-month continuous enrollment under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

S. 493

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 493, a bill to reduce a portion of the annual pay of Members of Congress for the failure to adopt a concurrent resolution on the budget which does not provide for a balanced budget, and for other purposes.

S. 540

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 540, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees and grants to finance certain improvements to school lunch facilities, to train school food service personnel, and for other purposes.

S. 569

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 569, a bill to reauthorize the farm to school program, and for other purposes.

S. 591

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 591, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 613

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) 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. 624

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 624, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinurance under Medicare for colorectal

cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 681

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 706

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 706, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to have an independent advocate for campus sexual assault prevention and response.

S. 713

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 713, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 773

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 773, a bill to prevent harassment at institutions of higher education, and for other purposes.

S. 968

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 968, a bill to require the Commissioner of Social Security to revise the medical and evaluation criteria for determining disability in a person diagnosed with Huntington's Disease and to waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility for individuals disabled by Huntington's Disease.

S. 1042

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1042, a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf in the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and North Atlantic planning areas.

S. 1088

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1088, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide for voter registration through the Internet, and for other purposes.

S. 1139

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1139, a bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to provide for same day registration.

At the request of Mr. BENNET, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1139, *supra*.

S. 1176

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1176, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the system of public financing for Presidential elections, and for other purposes.

S. 1378

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1378, a bill to strengthen employee cost savings suggestions programs within the Federal Government.

S. 1476

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1476, a bill to require States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding shooting incidents involving law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 1538

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1538, a bill to reform the financing of Senate elections, and for other purposes.

S. 1562

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1562, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 1664

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1664, a bill to count revenues from military and veteran education programs toward the limit on Federal revenues that certain proprietary institutions of higher education are allowed to receive for purposes of section 487 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

S. 1709

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1709, a bill to reduce risks to the financial system by limiting banks' ability to engage in certain risky activities and limiting conflicts of interest, to reinstate certain Glass-Steagall Act protections that were repealed by the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1737

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1737, a bill to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America.

S. 1883

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Vermont

(Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) were added as cosponsors of S. 1883, a bill to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 1911

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 1911, a bill to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally.

S. 1926

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1926, a bill to ensure access to screening mammography services.

S. 1968

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1968, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require certain companies to disclose information describing any measures the company has taken to identify and address conditions of forced labor, slavery, human trafficking, and the worst forms of child labor within the company's supply chains.

S. 1982

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1982, a bill to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund the Wall of Remembrance.

S. 2010

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2010, a bill to provide for phased-in payment of Social Security Disability Insurance payments during the waiting period for individuals with a terminal illness.

S. 2021

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2021, a bill to prohibit Federal agencies and Federal contractors from requesting that an applicant for employment disclose criminal history record information before the applicant has received a conditional offer, and for other purposes.

S. 2031

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2031, a bill to reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands, and for other purposes.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr.

GRASSLEY), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2067, a bill to establish EUREKA Prize Competitions to accelerate discovery and development of disease-modifying, preventive, or curative treatments for Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, to encourage efforts to enhance detection and diagnosis of such diseases, or to enhance the quality and efficiency of care of individuals with such diseases.

S. 2072

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2072, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a program under which the Administrator shall defer the designation of an area as a non-attainment area for purposes of the 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard if the area achieves and maintains certain standards under a voluntary early action compact plan.

S. 2123

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2123, a bill to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2175

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2175, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of podiatrists in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2196

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2196, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the non-application of Medicare competitive acquisition rates to complex rehabilitative wheelchairs and accessories.

S. 2219

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2219, a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct an assessment and analysis of the outdoor recreation economy of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2238

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2238, a bill to prohibit drilling in the outer Continental Shelf, to prohibit coal leases on Federal land, and for other purposes.

S. 2373

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin

(Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2373, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment.

S. 2483

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2483, a bill to prohibit States from carrying out more than one Congressional redistricting after a decennial census and apportionment, to require States to conduct such redistricting through independent commissions, and for other purposes.

S. 2531

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2531, a bill to authorize State and local governments to divest from entities that engage in commerce-related or investment-related boycott, divestment, or sanctions activities targeting Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 2595

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2595, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 2597

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2597, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program.

S. 2619

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2619, a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to carry out a pilot program on the award of financial assistance to local governments to support the development of startup businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 2655

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2655, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the historic rehabilitation tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 2745

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2745, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to promote the inclusion of minorities in clinical research, and for other purposes.

S. 2748

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2748, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 2750

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2750, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to extend and modify certain charitable tax provisions.

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2750, *supra*.

S. 2758

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2758, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove consideration of certain pain-related issues from calculations under the Medicare hospital value-based purchasing program, and for other purposes.

S. 2759

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2759, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a nonrefundable credit for working family caregivers.

S. 2795

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2795, a bill to modernize the regulation of nuclear energy.

S. 2799

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2799, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a voluntary patient registry to collect data on cancer incidence among firefighters.

S. 2854

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2854, a bill to reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007.

S. 2868

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2868, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the

deferral of inclusion in gross income for capital gains reinvested in economically distressed zones.

S. 2878

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2878, a bill to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes.

S. 2895

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2895, a bill to extend the civil statute of limitations for victims of Federal sex offenses.

S. 2904

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 2904, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

S. 2912

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2912, a bill to authorize the use of unapproved medical products by patients diagnosed with a terminal illness in accordance with State law, and for other purposes.

S. 2927

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2927, a bill to prevent governmental discrimination against providers of health services who decline involvement in abortion, and for other purposes.

S. 2932

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2932, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the provision of emergency medical services.

S. 2993

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi

(Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2993, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to change the spill prevention, control, and countermeasure rule with respect to certain farms.

S. 3008

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3008, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income certain discharges of student loan indebtedness.

S. 3032

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3032, a bill to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2016, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 3056

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3056, a bill to provide for certain causes of action relating to delays of generic drugs and bio-similar biological products.

S. 3057

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3057, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from requiring that the identity of contributors to 501(c) organizations be included in annual returns.

S. 3083

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3083, a bill to provide housing opportunities in the United States through modernization of various housing programs, and for other purposes.

S. 3101

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3101, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to limit the liability of health care professionals who volunteer to provide health care services in response to a disaster.

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3101, supra.

S. 3106

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3106, a bill to provide a coordinated regional response to effectively manage the endemic violence and humanitarian crisis in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

S. 3113

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3113, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for training and support services for families and caregivers of people living with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia.

S. 3124

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3124, a bill to require U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to take into custody certain aliens who have been charged in the United States with a crime that resulted in the death or serious bodily injury of another person, and for other purposes.

S. 3127

At the request of Mr. DAINES, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3127, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to enhance protections of Native American cultural objects, and for other purposes.

S. 3132

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3132, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide service dogs to certain veterans with severe post-traumatic stress disorder.

S. 3134

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3134, a bill to improve Federal population surveys by requiring the collection of voluntary, self-disclosed information on sexual orientation and gender identity in certain surveys, and for other purposes.

S. 3137

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3137, a bill to require the

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to test the efficacy of providing Alzheimer's Disease caregiver support services in delaying or reducing the use of institutionalized care for Medicare beneficiaries with Alzheimer's Disease or a related dementia.

S. 3138

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3138, a bill to prevent Iran from directly or indirectly receiving assistance from the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

S. 3142

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3142, a bill to require reporting on acts of certain foreign countries on Holocaust era assets and related issues.

S. 3146

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3146, a bill to require servicers to provide certain notices relating to foreclosure proceedings, and for other purposes.

S. 3150

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3150, a bill to use certain revenues from the outer Continental Shelf to reduce the Federal budget deficit.

S. 3179

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 3179, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve and extend the credit for carbon dioxide sequestration.

S. 3184

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 3184, a bill to protect law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 3194

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3194, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to promote healthy eating and physical activity among children.

S.J. RES. 5

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 5, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating

to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S.J. RES. 21

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 21, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

S.J. RES. 32

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 32, a joint resolution to provide limitations on the transfer of certain United States munitions from the United States to Saudi Arabia.

S.J. RES. 35

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 35, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the final rule of the Department of Labor relating to "Interpretation of the 'Advice' Exemption in Section 203(c) of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act".

S.J. RES. 36

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 36, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to parental rights.

S. CON. RES. 41

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 41, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress on the Peshmerga of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

S. CON. RES. 42

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 42, a concurrent resolution to express the sense of Congress regarding the safe and expeditious resettlement to Albania of all residents of Camp Liberty.

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 42, supra.

S. CON. RES. 47

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 47, a concurrent resolution expressing support for fostering closer economic and commercial ties between the United States and the United Kingdom following the decision of the people of the United Kingdom to withdraw from the European Union.

S. RES. 349

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from New York

(Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 349, a resolution congratulating the Farm Credit System on the celebration of its 100th anniversary.

S. RES. 485

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 485, a resolution to encourage the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to abide by constitutional provisions regarding the holding of presidential elections in 2016, with the aim of ensuring a peaceful and orderly democratic transition of power.

S. RES. 524

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 524, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the conflict in Yemen.

S. RES. 526

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 526, a resolution calling for all parties to respect the arbitral tribunal ruling with regard to the South China Sea and to express United States policy on freedom of navigation and overflight in the East and South China Seas.

S. RES. 529

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 529, a resolution calling upon the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to release Iranian-Americans Siamak Namazi and his father, Baquer Namazi.

S. RES. 530

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 530, a resolution supporting the termination of the Select Investigative Panel of the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives established pursuant to House Resolution 461, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 3210. A bill to identify and combat corruption in countries, to establish a tiered system of countries with respect to levels of corruption by their governments and their efforts to combat such corruption, and to assess United States assistance to designated countries in order to advance anti-corruption efforts in those countries and better serve United States taxpayers; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, there is growing recognition in the United States, and around the world, that corruption is a serious threat to international security and stability. We have all seen the headlines—from scandals in Brazil and Malaysia, to the doping by Russian athletes and their subsequent ban from the Summer Olympics, to the Panama Papers. It is becoming clear that where there are high levels of corruption we find fragile states, or states suffering from internal or external conflict—in places such as Afghanistan and Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Nigeria, and Sudan.

The problem of corruption, and the dysfunction that follows it, can be difficult to address because it is like a hydra, with many corrupt actors that can include government officials, businessmen, law enforcement, military personnel, and organized criminal groups. Corruption is a system that operates via extensive, entrenched networks in both the public and private sectors.

But we must address it. We can't throw up our hands and accept corruption as the status quo, because the costs of not addressing and rooting it out are too great. Corruption fuels violent extremism, pushing young people toward violence, because they lose faith in the institutions that are supposed to protect and serve them. Corruption feeds the destructive fire of criminal networks and transnational crime. Citizens lose faith in the social compact between governments and the people. Terrorist groups use corruption to recruit followers to their hateful cause. It's a vicious cycle.

The human cost of corruption is substantial. Across the globe, millions of men, women and children are victims of modern day slavery. Corruption enables their trafficking within and among countries. Corruption is a constant companion to modern day slavery and the suffering that it brings. We also have seen this play out in the refugee and migrant crisis, with thousands drowning in the Mediterranean, victims of trafficking networks and corrupt government officials who facilitate this illicit business. Make no mistake, corruption is big business—one news report estimates that traffickers made 5 to 6 billion dollars in 2015 alone in bringing approximately one million refugees and migrants to Europe.

Let's be clear-eyed—any fight against corruption will be long-term and difficult. It's a fight against powerful people, powerful companies, and powerful interests. It is about changing a mindset and a culture as much as it is about establishing and enforcing laws. As my colleagues and constituents know, my attention has long been focused on fighting corruption. I introduced S. 284, the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, to target human rights abusers and corrupt individuals around the globe who threaten the rule of law and deny fun-

damental freedoms. But the problem is so big—we simply have to do more.

This is why I am introducing the Combating Global Corruption and Accountability Act. We must meet the scale of the problem of corruption with greater resolve and commitment. To do that, I believe we must focus on four things.

First, we must institutionalize the fight against corruption as a national security priority. In my bill, the State Department will produce an annual report, similar to the Trafficking in Persons Report, which takes a close look at each country's efforts to combat corruption. That model, which has effectively advanced the effort to combat modern day slavery, will similarly embed the issue of corruption in our collective work, so that we hold governments to account. This bill establishes minimum standards for combating corruption—standards that should be part and parcel of every government's commitment to its citizens. These include whether a country has laws that recognize corrupt acts for the crimes they are—violations of the people's trust—along with appropriate penalties for breaking that trust. Whether a country has an independent judiciary for deciding corruption cases, free from influence and abuse. Whether there is support for civil society organizations that are the watchdogs of integrity against would-be thieves of the state. This bill, hopefully, will build anticorruption DNA into the foundations of government action.

Second, in the United States, our whole-of-government effort must be better coordinated. Right now, we work across multiple agencies and in multiple offices to combat corruption. There is much information and many best practices that can be shared—we've got to do better at that and take advantage of those areas where we have been successful. The State Department and the United States Agency for International Development have done great work, but the vast nature of the problem requires that we improve our ability to tackle it. In this bill, agencies and bureaus and our missions overseas will have to prioritize corruption into their strategic planning as an essential part of our foreign policy work—a step that I believe will foster greater cooperation.

Third, we must improve oversight of our own foreign assistance and promote transparency. The U.S. taxpayer has a right to know how our foreign assistance is being spent, and also should feel confident that we are doing the kind of risk assessments, analysis, and oversight that ensure our assistance to other countries is having the effect we want it to have. My bill consolidates information and puts it online, where citizens can see the numbers and the programs. That kind of transparency is in and of itself good, but in my experience it has the effect of making us better at self-policing our work. We can use the data to capture redundancies

and analyze trends, which I believe will make our decision-making better. The bill embeds oversight into our foreign assistance programs overseas, maintaining the flexibility we need to meet our goals rapidly while also holding government to account.

In fact, it is a natural complement to the Foreign Assistance Transparency and Accountability Act, a bill Senator RUBIO and I co-sponsored that looks at our foreign aid and ensures that our foreign assistance programs are tracked and evaluated adequately and appropriately.

I am a believer in the power of example. This "one-two" punch of the Combating Global Corruption Act and the Foreign Assistance Transparency Act strengthens our foreign assistance policy, demonstrates that we hold ourselves to the highest standards, and shows other countries that we are committed to this fight.

Finally, we have to find ways to resource anti-corruption work. Corruption is big business and big money. We should look for ways to use seized assets and ill-gotten proceeds to build civil society capacity to fight corruption, and make it easier to transfer these assets to the appropriate effort. The Obama administration has built on the efforts of those before it to improve our ability to go after the big players, and there have been some great successes by the Treasury and Justice Departments in winning judgments and recovering assets. So we will look at the resources and the training and the intelligence needs, and we will make sure we have the tools and skills to continue those kinds of successes.

I want to close with a few words about something that is hard to capture in legislation. It is something that I grappled with when drafting this bill. It is something that perhaps, more than anything, will dictate if we win this struggle against corruption. And that is political will.

At the end of June, after six long years, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission issued a final rule to implement Section 1504 of the Dodd-Frank Act, known as the "Cardin-Lugar provision". This provision requires that all foreign and domestic companies listed on U.S. stock exchanges and involved in oil, gas, and mineral resource extraction must publish the project-level payments they make to the foreign countries in which they operate. This was a watershed moment in which the United States reclaimed its position as a leader in the effort to increase global accountability and transparency. Six years. That is the length of a term of a U.S. Senator. It is college and a Master's degree. It is the length of the horrific conflict in Syria. Six years for the United States to achieve greater revenue transparency in the extractives sector because we know secrecy breeds corruption and corruption can breed instability and perpetuate poverty in resource-rich countries. It took that long

because some people believed that less transparency is a good thing. Some groups believed that accountability should take a back seat to profitability.

I am under no illusion that this global fight against corruption will be easy. It will make the work of our government agencies more challenging. It will make our diplomacy more challenging. It will require political will. But political will finds its source and its strength in our values. Political will is created when we embrace those values. Political will endures in good governance, accountability, and transparency and those values that are at the core of the compact between the government and the governed.

As this bill moves forward, I urge my colleagues to find the political will to combat global corruption, ensure accountability, and keep our commitment to the best of American values.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 3211. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a national Oncology Medical Home Demonstration Project under the Medicare program for the purpose of changing the Medicare payment for cancer care in order to enhance the quality of care and to improve cost efficiency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3211

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 “Cancer Care Payment Reform Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHING AN ONCOLOGY MEDICAL HOME DEMONSTRATION PROJECT UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF CARE AND COST EFFICIENCY.

Title XVIII of the Social Security Act is amended by inserting after section 1866E (42 U.S.C. 1395cc–5) the following new section:

“SEC. 1866F. ONCOLOGY MEDICAL HOME DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

“(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.**—Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish an Oncology Medical Home Demonstration Project (in this section referred to as the ‘demonstration project’) to make payments in the amounts specified in subsection (f) to each participating oncology practice (as defined in subsection (b)).

“(b) **DEFINITION OF PARTICIPATING ONCOLOGY PRACTICE.**—For purposes of this section, the term ‘participating oncology practice’ means an oncology practice that—

“(1) submits to the Secretary an application to participate in the demonstration project in accordance with subsection (c);

“(2) is selected by the Secretary, in accordance with subsection (d), to participate in the demonstration project; and

“(3) is owned by a physician, or is owned by or affiliated with a hospital, that submitted

a claim for payment in the prior year for an item or service for which payment may be made under part B.

“(c) **APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE.**—An application by an oncology practice to participate in the demonstration project shall include an attestation to the Secretary that the practice—

“(1) furnishes physicians’ services for which payment may be made under part B;

“(2) coordinates oncology services furnished to an individual by the practice with services that are related to such oncology services and that are furnished to such individual by practitioners (including oncology nurses) inside or outside the practice in order to ensure that each such individual receives coordinated care;

“(3) meaningfully uses electronic health records;

“(4) will, not later than one year after the date on which the practice commences its participation in the demonstration project, be accredited as an Oncology Medical Home by the Commission on Cancer, the National Committee for Quality Assurance, or such other entity as the Secretary determines appropriate;

“(5) will repay all amounts paid by the Secretary to the practice under subsection (f)(1)(A) in the case that the practice does not, on a date that is not later than 60 days after the date on which the practice’s agreement period for the demonstration project begins, as determined by the Secretary, submit an application to an entity described in paragraph (4) for accreditation as an Oncology Medical Home in accordance with such paragraph;

“(6) will, for each year in which the demonstration project is conducted, report to the Secretary, in such form and manner as is specified by the Secretary, on—

“(A) the performance of the practice with respect to measures described in subsection (e) as determined by the Secretary, subject to subsection (e)(1)(B); and

“(B) the experience of care of individuals who are furnished oncology services by the practice for which payment may be made under part B, as measured by a patient experience of care survey based on the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems survey or by such similar survey as the Secretary determines appropriate;

“(7) agrees not to receive the payments described in subclauses (I) and (II) of subsection (f)(1)(B)(iii) in the case that the practice does not report to the Secretary in accordance with paragraph (6) with respect to performance of the practice during the 12-month period beginning on the date on which the practice’s agreement period for the demonstration project begins, as determined by the Secretary;

“(8) will, for each year of the demonstration project, meet the performance standards developed under subsection (e)(4)(B) with respect to each of the measures on which the practice has agreed to report under paragraph (6)(A) and the patient experience of care on which the practice has agreed to report under paragraph (6)(B); and

“(9) has the capacity to utilize shared decision-making tools that facilitate the incorporation of the patient needs, preferences, and circumstances of an individual into the medical plan of the individual and that maintain provider flexibility to tailor care of the individual based on the full range of test and treatment options available to the individual.

“(d) **SELECTION OF PARTICIPATING PRACTICES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall, not later than 15 months after the date of the enactment of this section, select oncology practices that submit an application to the

Secretary in accordance with subsection (c) to participate in the demonstration project.

“(2) **MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PRACTICES.**—In selecting an oncology practice to participate in the demonstration project under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that the participation of such practice in the demonstration project does not, on the date on which the practice commences its participation in the demonstration project—

“(A) increase the total number of practices participating in the demonstration project to a number that is greater than 200 practices (or such number as the Secretary determines appropriate); or

“(B) increase the total number of oncologists who participate in the demonstration project to a number that is greater than 1,500 oncologists (or such number as the Secretary determines appropriate).

“(3) **DIVERSITY OF PRACTICES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (B), in selecting oncology practices to participate in the demonstration project under this section, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, include in such selection—

“(i) small-, medium-, and large-sized practices; and

“(ii) practices located in different geographic areas.

“(B) **INCLUSION OF SMALL ONCOLOGY PRACTICES.**—In selecting oncology practices to participate in the demonstration project under this section, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, ensure that at least 20 percent of the participating practices are small oncology practices (as determined by the Secretary).

“(4) **NO PENALTY FOR CERTAIN OPT-OUTS BY PRACTICES.**—In the case that the Secretary selects an oncology practice to participate in the demonstration project under this section that has agreed to participate in a model established under section 1115A for oncology services, such practice may not be assessed a penalty for electing not to participate in such model if the practice makes such election—

“(A) prior to the receipt by the practice of any payment for such model that would not otherwise be paid in the absence of such model; and

“(B) in order to participate in the demonstration project under this section.

“(e) **MEASURES.**—

“(1) **DEVELOPMENT.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall use measures described in paragraph (2), and may use measures developed under paragraph (3), to assess the performance of each participating oncology practice, as compared to other participating oncology practices as described in paragraph (4)(A)(i).

“(B) **DETERMINATION OF MEASURES REPORTED.**—In determining measures to be reported under subsection (c)(6)(A), the Secretary, in consultation with stakeholders, shall ensure that reporting under such subsection is not overly burdensome and that those measures required to be reported are aligned with applicable requirements from other payors.

“(2) **MEASURES DESCRIBED.**—The measures described in this paragraph, with respect to individuals who are attributed to a participating oncology practice, as determined by the Secretary, are the following:

“(A) **PATIENT CARE MEASURES.**—

“(i) The percentage of such individuals who receive documented clinical or pathologic staging prior to initiation of a first course of cancer treatment.

“(ii) The percentage of such individuals who undergo advanced imaging and have been diagnosed with stage I or II breast cancer.

“(iii) The percentage of such individuals who undergo advanced imaging and have

been diagnosed with stage I or II prostate cancer.

“(iv) The percentage of such individuals who, prior to receiving cancer treatment, had their performance status assessed by the practice.

“(v) The percentage of such individuals who—

“(I) undergo treatment with a chemotherapy regimen provided by the practice;

“(II) have at least a 20-percent risk of developing febrile neutropenia due to a combination of regimen risk and patient risk factors; and

“(III) have received from the practice either GCSF or white cell growth factor.

“(vi) With respect to such individuals who receive chemotherapy treatment from the practice, the percentage of such individuals so treated who receive a treatment plan prior to the administration of such chemotherapy.

“(vii) With respect to chemotherapy treatments administered to such individuals by the practice, the percentage of such treatments that adhere to guidelines published by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network or such other entity as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(viii) With respect to antiemetic drugs dispensed by the practice to individuals as part of moderately or highly emetogenic chemotherapy regimens for such individuals, the extent to which such drugs are administered in accordance with evidence-based guidelines or pathways that are compliant with guidelines published by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network or such other entity as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(B) RESOURCE UTILIZATION MEASURES.—

“(i) With respect to emergency room visits in a year by such individuals who are receiving active chemotherapy treatment administered by the practice as of the date of such visits, the percentage of such visits that are associated with qualified cancer diagnoses of the individuals.

“(ii) With respect to hospital admissions in a year by such individuals who are receiving active chemotherapy treatment administered by the practice as of the date of such visits, the percentage of such admissions that are associated with qualified cancer diagnoses of the individuals.

“(C) SURVIVORSHIP MEASURES.—

“(i) Survival rates for such individuals who have been diagnosed with stage I through IV breast cancer.

“(ii) Survival rates for such individuals who have been diagnosed with stage I through IV colorectal cancer.

“(iii) Survival rates for such individuals who have been diagnosed with stage I through IV lung cancer.

“(iv) With respect to such individuals who receive chemotherapy treatment from the practice, the percentage of such individuals so treated who receive a survivorship plan not later than 45 days after the completion of the administration of such chemotherapy.

“(v) With respect to such individuals who receive chemotherapy treatment from the practice, the percentage of such individuals who receive psychological screening.

“(D) END-OF-LIFE CARE MEASURES.—

“(i) The number of times that such an individual receives chemotherapy treatment from the practice within an amount of time specified by the Secretary, in consultation with stakeholders, prior to the death of the individual.

“(ii) With respect to such individuals who have a stage IV disease and have received treatment for such disease from the practice, the percentage of such individuals so treated who have had a documented end-of-life care conversation with a physician in the practice

or another health care provider who is a member of the cancer care team of the practice.

“(iii) With respect to such an individual who is referred to hospice care by a physician in the practice or a health care provider who is a member of the cancer care team of the practice, regardless of the setting in which such care is furnished, the average number of days that the individual receives hospice care prior to the death of the individual.

“(iv) With respect to such individuals who die while receiving care from the practice, the percentage of such deceased individuals whose death occurred in an acute care setting.

“(3) MODIFICATION OR ADDITION OF MEASURES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, in consultation with appropriate stakeholders in a manner determined by the Secretary, modify, replace, remove, or add to the measures described in paragraph (2).

“(B) APPROPRIATE STAKEHOLDERS DESCRIBED.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term ‘appropriate stakeholders’ includes oncology societies, oncologists who furnish oncology services to one or more individuals for which payment may be made under part B, allied health professionals, health insurance issuers that have implemented alternative payment models for oncologists, patients and organizations that represent patients, and biopharmaceutical and other medical technology manufacturers.

“(4) ASSESSMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, for each year in which the demonstration project is conducted, assess—

“(i) the performance of each participating oncology practice for such year with respect to the measures on which the practice has agreed to report to the Secretary under subsection (c)(6)(A), as compared to the performance of other participating oncology practices with respect to such measures; and

“(ii) the extent to which each participating oncology practice has, during such year, used breakthrough or other best-in-class therapies.

“(B) PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall, in consultation with the appropriate stakeholders described in paragraph (3)(B) in a manner determined by the Secretary, develop performance standards with respect to—

“(i) each of the measures described in paragraph (2), including those measures as modified or added under paragraph (3); and

“(ii) the patient experience of care on which participating oncology practices agree to report to the Secretary under subsection (c)(6)(B).

“(f) PAYMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING ONCOLOGY PRACTICES AND ONCOLOGISTS.—

“(1) CARE COORDINATION MANAGEMENT FEE DURING FIRST TWO YEARS OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, in addition to any other payments made by the Secretary under this title to a participating oncology practice, pay a care coordination management fee to each such practice at each of the times specified in subparagraph (B).

“(B) TIMING OF PAYMENTS.—The care coordination management fee described in subparagraph (A) shall be paid to a participating oncology practice at the end of each of the following periods:

“(i) The period that ends 6 months after the date on which the practice’s agreement period for the demonstration project begins, as determined by the Secretary.

“(ii) The period that ends 12 months after the date on which the practice’s agreement

period for the demonstration project begins, as determined by the Secretary.

“(iii) Subject to subsection (c)(7)—

“(I) the period that ends 18 months after the date on which the practice’s agreement period for the demonstration project begins, as determined by the Secretary; and

“(II) the period that ends 24 months after the date on which the practice’s agreement period for the demonstration project begins, as determined by the Secretary.

“(C) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—The Secretary shall, in consultation with oncologists who furnish oncology services for which payment may be made under part B in a manner determined by the Secretary, determine the amount of the care coordination management fee described in subparagraph (A).

“(2) PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraphs (C) and (E), the Secretary shall, in addition to any other payments made by the Secretary under this title to a participating oncology practice, pay a performance incentive payment to each such practice for each year of the demonstration project described in subparagraph (B).

“(B) TIMING OF PAYMENTS.—The performance incentive payment described in subparagraph (A) shall be paid to a participating oncology practice as soon as practicable following the end of the third, fourth, and fifth years of the demonstration project.

“(C) SOURCE OF PAYMENTS.—Performance incentive payments made to participating oncology practices under subparagraph (A) for each of the years of the demonstration project described in subparagraph (B) shall be paid from the aggregate pool available for making payments for each such year determined under subparagraph (D), as available for each such year.

“(D) AGGREGATE POOL AVAILABLE FOR MAKING PAYMENTS.—With respect to each of the years of the demonstration project described in described in subparagraph (B), the aggregate pool available for making performance incentive payments for each such year shall be determined by—

“(i) estimating the amount by which the aggregate expenditures that would have been expended for the year under parts A and B for items and services furnished to individuals attributed to participating oncology practices if the demonstration project had not been implemented exceeds such aggregate expenditures for such individuals for such year of the demonstration project;

“(ii) calculating the amount that is half of the amount estimated under clause (i); and

“(iii) subtracting from the amount calculated under clause (ii) the total amount of payments made under paragraph (1) that have not, in a prior application of this clause, previously been so subtracted from a calculation made under clause (ii).

“(E) AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS TO INDIVIDUAL PRACTICES THAT MEET PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND ACHIEVE SAVINGS.—

“(i) PAYMENTS ONLY TO PRACTICES THAT MEET PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—The Secretary may not make performance incentive payments to a participating oncology practice under subparagraph (A) with respect to a year of the demonstration project described in subparagraph (B) unless the practice meets or exceeds the performance standards developed under subsection (e)(4)(B) for the year with respect to—

“(I) the measures on which the practice has agreed to report to the Secretary under subsection (c)(6)(A); and

“(II) the patient experience of care on which the practice has agreed to report to the Secretary under subsection (c)(6)(B).

“(ii) CONSIDERATION OF PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall, in consultation with the appropriate stakeholders described in subsection (e)(3)(B) in a manner determined by the Secretary, determine the amount of a performance incentive payment to a participating oncology practice under subparagraph (A) for a year of the demonstration project described in subparagraph (B). In making a determination under the preceding sentence, the Secretary shall take into account the performance assessment of the practice under subsection (e)(4)(A) with respect to the year and the aggregate pool available for making payments for such year determined under subparagraph (D), as available for such year.

“(3) ISSUANCE OF GUIDANCE.—Not later than the date that is 12 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall issue guidance detailing the methodology that the Secretary will use to implement subparagraphs (D) and (E) of paragraph (2).

“(g) SECRETARY REPORTS TO PARTICIPATING ONCOLOGY PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall inform each participating oncology practice, on a periodic (such as quarterly) basis, of—

“(1) the performance of the practice with respect to the measures on which the practice has agreed to report to the Secretary under subsection (c)(6)(A); and

“(2) the estimated amount by which the expenditures that would have been expended under parts A and B for items and services furnished to individuals attributed to the practice if the demonstration project had not been implemented exceeds the actual expenditures for such individuals.

“(h) APPLICATIONS FROM ENTITIES TO PROVIDE ACCREDITATIONS.—Not later than the date that is 18 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish a process for the acceptance and consideration of applications from entities for purposes of determining which entities may provide accreditation to practices under subsection (c)(4) in addition to the entities described in such subsection.

“(i) REVISIONS TO DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—The Secretary may make appropriate revisions to the demonstration project under this section in order for participating oncology practices under such demonstration project to meet the definition of an eligible alternative payment entity for purposes of section 1833(z).

“(j) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may waive such provisions of this title and title XI as the Secretary determines necessary in order to implement the demonstration project under this section.

“(k) ADMINISTRATION.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, shall not apply to this section.”.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 3213. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for transparency of payments made from the Judgment Fund; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise to draw attention to important legislation that would ensure American taxpayers know how their hard-earned dollars are being spent. This morning, I was pleased to join Senator LANKFORD to introduce a bill that expands on similar legislation that I introduced with Senator GARDNER last year, known as the Judgment Fund Transparency Act. The Judgment Fund is administered by the Treasury Department

and is used to pay certain court judgments and settlements against the Federal Government. It is essentially an unlimited amount of money made available to the Federal Government to cover its own liability.

The fund is not subject to the annual appropriations process. And even more remarkable, the Treasury Department has no reporting requirements. Because of this, the Judgment Fund payments are made with very little oversight or scrutiny. Because the Treasury Department has no binding reporting requirements, few public details exist about where the funds are going and why. This is no small matter, as the Judgment Fund disburses billions of dollars in payments every year. For example, between 2013 and 2015, the Federal Government paid more than \$10 billion in Judgment Fund awards with scant transparency or oversight. Hard-working taxpayers and Members of Congress have every right to see exactly how tax dollars are being spent out of this Judgment Fund.

I was proud to see my original version of the bill pass the Senate as part of the Energy Policy Modernization Act in April. Still, recent developments show more oversight is needed, and that is why I have joined with Senator LANKFORD to update and expand the Judgment Fund Transparency Act. This update is the result of payments made through the Judgment Fund to Iran earlier this year.

In January, the Obama administration transferred \$1.7 billion to Iran's Central Bank. It was paid in connection with the settlement of a claim relating to arms sales to the Shah. Last month, new reports indicated that the U.S. payment was transferred to Iran's defense budget. In defending the payment, White House spokesman Josh Ernst argued that it was “Exhibit A in the administration pursuing tough, principled diplomacy in a way that actually ends up making the American people safer and advancing their interests.”

I disagree. A \$1.7 billion payment that goes to Iran's military does not make our country safer. Iran was designated a state sponsor of terror in 1984. Its military has long provided weapons, training, and funding to groups such as Hezbollah, Hamas, and other proxies throughout the Middle East and beyond.

Last month, the State Department released its latest country reports on terrorism. It states: “In 2015, Iran's state sponsorship of terrorism worldwide remained undiminished.” In fact, the State Department report noted that in some areas, such as Iraq, its support to terrorist groups has actually increased. I am haunted by the fear that some of these very terrorists, groups that may have taken American lives, may have received money from the U.S. Treasury.

The bill that I am introducing with Senator LANKFORD today takes action. It would prohibit the Judgment Fund

from being used for this purpose while maintaining key provisions from the original bill requiring openness and transparency.

If the administration wants to deliver another payment to a regime that is going to sponsor terror, it should make its case to Congress and to the American people. More transparency leads to greater accountability. Sunlight is the best disinfectant. Through this bill, we can track taxpayer-funded payments to foreign nations and prevent harmful transactions from happening in the future.

I thank Senator LANKFORD for his diligent work on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to stand behind hard-working American taxpayers and support this legislation.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 3214. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to allow all eligible voters to vote by mail in Federal elections, to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide for automatic voter registration; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mr. WYDEN: Mr. President, today I am introducing the Vote by Mail Act of 2016 to ensure that all registered voters have the opportunity to fully participate in our democracy.

Fifty-one years ago, President Johnson urged Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act. In the face of implacable opposition from southern states, Johnson clearly laid out the stakes: “Every American citizen must have an equal right to vote. There is no reason which can excuse the denial of that right. There is no duty which weighs more heavily on us than the duty we have to ensure that right.”

Sadly, half a century after that law began to remove the most egregious obstacles to voting, Americans are facing new barriers to exercising their fundamental right to vote. Across the country, there are stories of long lines, inexplicable purges of voter rolls and new requirements that make it harder for citizens to vote. There is no excuse for accepting this state of affairs.

There is no excuse for citizens in Arizona to wait 5 hours to cast their ballot. There is no excuse for citizens in Rhode Island to find two out of every three polling places have closed. There is no excuse whatsoever for poor communities and minority communities across this country to see their polling places shuttered.

Seniors and disabled Americans should not have to wait in long lines or struggle to reach polling places. Working parents shouldn't have to choose between going to work or going to vote. Voting should not be a test of endurance. It should not be a Kafkaesque experience in defeating bureaucracy.

Increasingly, too many voters show up to the polls on election day, only to find out their name is inexplicably missing from the voter rolls, or their

ID doesn't meet some new, more restrictive requirements. There is no excuse for our government to turn away citizens, to say their voice does not count, because of a clerical error or an unjust technicality.

These grossly unfair obstacles have sprouted like weeds across our Nation ever since the Supreme Court overturned large portions of the Voting Rights Act in 2013. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, just this year, 17 States have passed new laws or rules to make it harder for their citizens to vote.

Thankfully there is a solution. My home State of Oregon has led the Nation in making voting more accessible. In Oregon, every voter receives a ballot 2 or 3 weeks before an election date. With the arrival of that ballot, complete with candidate information and issue pamphlets, every Oregonian has ample time to research candidates and issues, think about them, discuss them with friends and family, and then vote. All in their own time. Rather than waiting in long lines, Oregonians can mail their ballot back, or drop it off at ballot collection sites, many of which are open 24-7. No one has to take time off work just to exercise his or her constitutional rights to vote.

Vote-by-mail won't stop every state legislature from devising new ways to suppress voter turnout. But one thing it will do is it will give voters more time to fight back. When Americans have two or three weeks to vote, they'll have more time to challenge registration problems. There's more time for citizens to defend their rights.

Oregon has been voting by mail locally since 1981. When I was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1996 it was the first time vote-by-mail was used for a federal race. In 2000 Oregon went to an entirely vote-by-mail system including for President of the United States. Since then we have consistently had voter turnout rates that are among the highest in the country. Oregon voting rates are especially high among young voters and in midterm elections. As an added benefit, studies have shown it saved taxpayers money to boot.

Oregon is also leading the charge in another important aspect of our voting system—voter registration. Our representative democracy requires active participation from all our citizens—regardless of one's economic resources or state of residence. This is particularly the case when it comes to ensuring that the voter registration process is widely accessible and easy to navigate. In order to vote, eligible citizens must first register—a step in the political process that has historically been difficult to navigate and subject to onerous burdens designed to exclude citizens of color and lower-income citizens from easily casting a ballot.

Oregon is the first state in the nation to launch an automatic voter registration system, which automatically registers eligible citizens who visit the Department of Motor Vehicles, unless

they "opt out." This year alone, Oregon has successfully registered over 200,000 new voters. Our governor, Kate Brown, deserves enormous credit for shepherding this reform into law.

So my proposition is the rest of our country should follow Oregon's lead by offering all voters a chance to vote by mail, and automatically registering eligible voters. To me, this is a no-brainer.

Today I introduced new legislation for national vote-by-mail, which builds on Oregon's system and bills I introduced in 2007 and 2010. My plan is simple: Every voter in a Federal election will receive a ballot in the mail. The Federal Government, through the Postal Service, will assist states with the costs of mailing ballots to registered voters. States can keep their current polling practices if they wish, but those states that choose a full vote-by-mail system will see their election costs significantly drop. Additionally, this bill will shift the burden of registration from the individual to the government. It calls on state governments to collaborate with State motor vehicle agencies to maintain updated voter registration rolls for all citizens who apply for a driver's license and who do not ask to remain unregistered. This practice will serve to both increase the accuracy of our voter rolls and reduce the burden on individual voters by requiring state governments to ensure that eligible citizens are registered.

My hope is this can ignite a new campaign to make it easier, not harder for Americans to vote. Because vote-by-mail and automatic registration are just the first steps in fighting back against those who would disenfranchise their fellow citizens to gain a political edge.

I know many of my colleagues and many voters are cynical about the chances of passing real reforms in this partisan day and age. My view is voting rights are simply too important to abandon the field to special interests who would manipulate our government. So once again I urge my colleagues and urge voters to call for real reform to our voting system and ensure that every citizen who wants to vote has that opportunity.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. 3226. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a registry of certain veterans who participated in a radiation cleanup mission in the Enewetak Atoll in the Marshall Islands during the period beginning on January 1, 1977, and ending on December 31, 1980, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Enewetak Atoll Cleanup Veterans Registry and Study Act of 2016. I am pleased to be joined by my colleague from Maine, Senator KING, in this initiative. Our bill would address an issue important to veterans, includ-

ing many in Maine, who participated in the Enewetak Atoll radiation cleanup missions from 1977 to 1980. These veterans may now be suffering from adverse health conditions due to exposure to radiation during these missions.

At the end of World War II, Enewetak Atoll came under the control of the United States, which used it to test nuclear bombs. From 1948 to 1958, Enewetak Atoll was the site of 43 U.S. nuclear tests. The combined federal effort to clean up the resulting radioactive waste cost about \$100 million over three years and required an on-atoll task force numbering almost 1,000 people.

The veterans who served on the cleanup task force did not ask to be sent to Enewetak Atoll. Like good servicemembers, they received their orders and went to work serving the U.S. government by cleaning up radioactive waste over a 3-year period. I have heard from several Enewetak Atoll veterans who have now developed cancers, and they have expressed their concerns that these cancers may be rooted in their service cleaning up nuclear material.

To address this troubling issue, our bill would help identify and bring together the shared experiences of those who served as a part of the Enewetak Atoll cleanup. It would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, VA, to establish a registry of U.S. veterans who participated in the cleanup missions of the Enewetak Atoll and who have subsequently experienced health issues. It would also direct the VA to commission an independent study investigating any possible linkage between radiation exposure during the cleanup missions and subsequent health problems among the servicemembers who served or trained there.

Protecting the health of those who have served our nation is a solemn responsibility. This legislation keeps faith with our veterans by demonstrating that our government takes the allegations of service-connected exposure to radiation seriously. We must fulfill our obligations and affirm a larger commitment made long ago to take care of those who have so proudly served our Nation—the patriots who have worn our Nation's uniform.

I ask my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to voice my support for the Enewetak Atoll Cleanup Veterans Registry and Study Act of 2016. I am joined by my esteemed colleague from Maine, SUSAN COLLINS, in introducing this initiative, which will help to combat a very important issue facing the servicemen and women stationed at the Enewetak Atoll between 1977 and 1980. These veterans assisted in a radiation cleanup mission that may have exposed them to harmful nuclear waste, and may be causing them health problems to this day.

Between 1948 and 1958, the United States used the Enewetak Atoll for nuclear bomb testing. In 1977, after a

total of 43 nuclear tests, the United States engaged in a 3-year cleanup mission, costing \$100 million and requiring a task force of nearly 1,000 servicemembers. However, despite the clearly dangerous nature of handling radioactive material, there is no registry or health study for those who served at Enewetak during that time.

This bill would require the Secretary of the VA to establish a registry of veterans who served as part of the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll, and have subsequently experienced health issues that may have resulted from exposure to radiation. In addition, the bill would direct the VA to commission an independent study investigating any linkages between those who were exposed to the radiation and subsequent health problems. It would allow for the gathering of targeted data for a better assessment of exposure, and would help determine whether these veterans should be granted the presumption of service-connection disabilities.

Throughout our Nation's history, our veterans have put themselves in harm's way to ensure our freedom time and time again. Their unwavering patriotism and courage demonstrate the fortitude of American character and our Nation's commitment to democracy worldwide. In response, we must do everything we can to follow through on our responsibility to provide for our veterans, and the brave men and women who served at Enewetak Atoll are no exception to this solemn duty. This bill demonstrates our commitment to honoring and respecting our Nation's heroes, past and present, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 3234. A bill to amend the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000, the Buy Indian Act, the Indian Trader Act, and the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide industry and economic development opportunities to Indian communities; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise to speak on S. 3234, the Indian Community Economic Enhancement Act of 2016.

For years, Indian communities have experienced serious socio-economic challenges. Unacceptably high rates of unemployment, remote locations, and a lack of infrastructure are just a few of the problems affecting either the quality of life for Indian people or the ability to build strong sustainable economies.

The Federal programs available to facilitate or create economic opportunities are not structured to effectively target these communities. The Federal bureaucracy underlying various programs also inhibits economic growth as well.

The Committee on Indian Affairs, which I chair, has conducted several

hearings, listening sessions, and a roundtable on economic development. The primary concerns from Indian tribes, business owners, and tribal organizations have largely focused on access to capital. The Federal mechanisms for increasing available capital that have been used by Indian tribes or businesses to some degree include loan guarantees, tax credits, tax-exempt bond financing, community development financial institutions, CDFIs, and procurement programs.

This bill is intended to address several of these mechanisms by amending four key Federal laws affecting Indian communities: Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000; Native American Programs Act; Indian Trader Act; and the Buy Indian Act.

By amending these laws, the bill would benefit Indian communities by increasing access to capital for Indian tribes and businesses, increasing opportunities for Indian business promotion, and creating mechanisms and tools to attract business to Indian communities.

This bill will amend the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000 in four ways. First, it would require interagency coordination between the Secretaries of Commerce, Interior, and Treasury to develop initiatives encouraging investment in Indian communities. It would elevate the Director for the Indian programs in the Department of Commerce. The bill would make permanent the waiver of the requirement for Native CDFIs to provide a matching cost share for assistance received by the Treasury CDFI. In addition, the bill would establish the Indian Economic Development Fund to support the Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian loan guarantee and CDFI bond guarantee program for Indian communities.

The bill would also amend the Native American Programs Act to reauthorize the economic development programs. For economic development programs governed by this act, the bill would prioritize applications and technical assistance for building tribal court systems and code development for economic development, supporting CDFIs, and developing master plans for community and economic development.

This legislation would also amend the Indian Trader Act. The bill maintains current law and actions taken thereunder, but simply adds authority for the Secretary of the Interior to waive the licensing requirement for traders under this statute where an Indian tribe has a tribal law governing trade or commerce in its Indian lands.

The bill would amend the Buy Indian Act to facilitate the use of and more accountability for the Buy Indian Act in procurement decisions by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service.

Through this bill, more jobs at the local level would be created and small

businesses are assisted. Indian tribes could engage in more cohesive community development and infrastructure building. In addition, Federal bureaucracy is diminished, thereby reducing the costs of economic development.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this important and beneficial piece of legislation for Indian communities.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 3241. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reaffirm the United States' historic commitment to protecting refugees who are fleeing persecution or torture; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing the Refugee Protection Act, along with Senators Franken, Durbin and Hirono. The world is confronting the worst refugee crisis since World War II. There are more than 65 million people who have been forcibly displaced around the globe. In the face of such staggering human suffering, we must not lower our torch—we must raise it higher. The Refugee Protection Act of 2016 takes important steps to bolster and update our laws to address the urgency of today's crisis. Now, more than ever, we must reaffirm our role as a humanitarian leader and renew our commitment to those fleeing persecution across the world.

The ongoing conflict in Syria makes clear the enormity of the humanitarian crisis we face. The terror inflicted by Bashar Al-Assad's regime and ISIS, which now subjects vast swaths of the region to its barbaric rule, has forced more than half of Syria's 23 million people from their homes and claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of civilians. Currently, there are more than 4.8 million registered Syrian refugees, the overwhelming majority of whom are women and children.

The United States must assert its leadership in efforts to resettle the innocent victims of this catastrophe. That is precisely the call so many of us responded to a year ago when the world came together stunned and heartbroken over the image of a 3-year-old Syrian child's lifeless body washed up on a Turkish beach. His tragic death touched our hearts and focused our attention on the desperate plight of this population. We must not forget him or the plight of the thousands of other children who are attempting the same terrifying journey to safety.

We also cannot ignore the humanitarian crisis that is closer to home. Ruthless armed gangs in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala continue to brutalize women and children with impunity. El Salvador and Guatemala have the highest child murder rates in the world—higher even than in the war zones of Iraq and Afghanistan. These three Central American countries also account for some of the highest rates of female homicide worldwide. The violence and impunity in the Northern

Triangle has forced thousands of mothers and children to flee and seek refuge wherever they can find it. The administration's Central American Refugees Minor, CAM program and its expansion of the Refugee Admissions Program in Central America are an acknowledgment of the unique protection needs resulting from this crisis.

In response to these challenges, and so many others around the world, we must adapt our laws to make good on our commitment as a nation of refuge and freedom. It is our moral obligation but it is also in our national interest.

Our refugee program sends a powerful message to the rest of the world: America is not your enemy. We stand against persecution and terrorism in all its forms. A strong refugee program undermines the hateful propaganda of ISIS that there is a war between Islam and the West, that Muslims are not welcome here, and that the ISIS caliphate is their true home. By offering refuge to the world's most vulnerable people, regardless of their religion or nationality, our refugee program lays bare those lies.

The landmark Refugee Act of 1980 affirmed the commitments we made in ratifying the 1951 Refugee Convention. The Refugee Protection Act of 2016 that I am introducing today would reaffirm the spirit of those commitments and ensure that our law is up to meeting the humanitarian crisis of our time.

First, our bill would repeal harsh and unnecessary hurdles that exist in current law. It would eliminate the requirement that asylees file for asylum within one year of arrival. This is an arbitrary deadline that has prevented many deserving people from pursuing legitimate protection claims. It is particularly harmful to those individuals who may be slow to come forward and recount their trauma, such as victims of rape or torture. The bill also includes important safeguards to ensure that victims of gender-based persecution and LGBT asylum-seekers receive the protection they deserve.

Second, our bill provides critical protections for children and families. It would enable vulnerable minors seeking asylum to have their cases adjudicated by an asylum officer in a non-adversarial setting. Importantly, our bill would require the Attorney General to appoint counsel for children and other vulnerable individuals, allowing those who cannot advocate for themselves to receive a fair day in court. It is unconscionable that young children are being brought before U.S. Immigration judges without a lawyer to represent them. And, it would provide that all children in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security must be adequately screened for protection needs.

Our legislation also includes important protections for refugee families. It would allow certain children and family members of refugees to be considered derivative applicants for refugee

status if they have undergone the requisite security checks. Refugees escaping persecution should not have to choose between finding refuge and keeping their families together.

Third, our bill promotes a more efficient asylum and refugee process. It would require timely notice of immigration charges and provide for updated conditions of detention, preventing individuals from languishing in detention at taxpayer expense and encouraging efficient case adjudication in our immigration courts. It includes measures to provide particularly vulnerable individuals with a full and fair opportunity to seek protection in the United States. The bill would also establish a secure "alternatives to detention" program to ensure the appearance of individuals in removal proceedings.

Finally, our bill would facilitate the integration of refugees into our communities, which is a longstanding tradition in this country. It ensures that the Reception and Placement grants, which help refugees become self-sufficient, are adjusted on an annual basis for inflation and cost of living. It would also provide that resettled refugees who work for our government overseas do not face unnecessary hurdles in their adjustment to lawful permanent residence. Our bill also authorizes a study of our refugee resettlement program and improves the collection of data to ensure that our resettlement system uses resources efficiently.

I am proud of the role Vermont has played in welcoming refugees. Since 1989, our State has welcomed nearly 8,000 refugees from more than a dozen war-torn countries. Recerthy, Mayor Christopher Louras and members of the Rutland community announced plans to resettle 100 Syrian refugees. I applaud their decision, which should serve as an example to other communities in Vermont and across the country. I am confident that Vermont will do its part to provide a welcoming home for these families.

I am hopeful that if we pause and remember the role refugees and asylum-seekers have played for generations in making our communities strong and vibrant, we will be able to move past the hateful, ugly rhetoric of this campaign season. Our moral obligation to innocent victims of persecution demands it, and our national interest requires it. I urge all Senators to support the Refugee Protection Act of 2016.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 3252. A bill to require States to automatically register eligible voters to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, my friend JOHN LEWIS often says that "the right to vote is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have in a democracy." I could not agree more with him. We are a better and more representative Nation

when more Americans participate in our democracy, and we can help foster greater participation by modernizing the way we register our voters.

That is why today, I am introducing the Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2016, a bill to require states to automatically register citizens who are eligible to vote by working with State and Federal agencies. Individuals have the option of declining automatic registration, but this bill would provide for a registration process that is more efficient and accurate. Importantly, the information used by the agencies to automatically register individuals will remain private and secure, and can only be used for voter registration, election administration, or prosecution of election crimes.

The bill also takes steps to streamline the voter registration process, by providing for online registration and greater portability of registration when an individual moves to a different location in the same state. Under this bill, no individual can be unfairly penalized for inadvertent registration, and punishment is preserved only in cases of intentional registration fraud or illegal voting. These are all common sense measures that would make it easier for Americans to maintain accurate voter registration information, and they further help to ensure that our voter rolls are current and up-to-date.

My efforts in trying to extend automatic registration to every State is consistent with efforts in Vermont, which became just the fourth State to pass an automatic voter registration bill this past April. The State of Vermont and its superb Secretary of State—Jim Condos—have been leaders in improving access to the ballot box. I cannot offer enough praise for what they have done.

State election officials have estimated that Vermont could add 30,000 to 50,000 voters to the State's rolls when its new automatic voter registration law takes effect after the 2016 election. Now imagine if we can provide similar improvements to the registration rolls for every State in this great Nation. Our union can only become stronger and more representative with the participation of a broader electorate. According to a report from the Brennan Center released in September 2015, a comprehensive automatic voter registration plan could potentially add up to 50 million eligible voters to the rolls. Moreover, not only would it save money and increase accuracy, but it would also reduce the potential for fraud and protect the integrity of our elections.

There is no reason why every eligible citizen cannot have the option of automatic registration when they visit the DMV, sign up for healthcare, or sign up for classes in college. These are just some of the agencies or institutions that would work with the States to provide for automatic voter registration. We live in a modern world, and we

should strive to have a registration system that reflects that.

I would like to thank the Brennan Center for Justice for working so closely with me and my staff on this bill. I would also like to thank Senators KLOBUCHAR and DURBIN for joining me in introducing this bill. A House companion bill is being introduced by Congressman BRADY of Pennsylvania, the Ranking Member on the House Committee on House Administration. I am proud to join all of these individuals in fighting to increase access to the ballot box for all Americans.

The Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2016 is common sense legislation that all members of Congress should be able to support. However, this bill is part of a larger set of voting reforms that we must take on without further delay. We cannot talk about voting without mentioning the fact that this will be the first presidential election where the American people will be without the full protections of the Voting Rights Act since its original passage. It has now been more than three years since the Supreme Court's devastating decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*.

In that case, five justices severely weakened the Federal government's ability to prevent racial discriminatory voting changes from taking effect before those changes occur. The ruling's impact on voters across the country has been even worse than imagined. Before the ink dried on the Court's opinion, elected officials in several states rushed to exploit the decision by enacting voting laws that disproportionately prevent or discourage minorities from voting. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, at least 17 states have passed new voter restriction laws for the 2016 election. Millions of voters risk being disenfranchised for this election, and yet, this Republican majority—in both the House and the Senate—refuses to even hold a hearing on the issue.

The fundamental right to vote is too important for partisan politics. We must restore the full protections of the Voting Rights Act to ensure that no American's right to vote is infringed, and we must implement an automatic voter registration system to ensure that every American who wishes to vote is able to do so. This is an issue that cannot wait. It is long past time for Congress to respond with action.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 3263. A bill to promote innovation and realize the efficiency gains and economic benefits of on-demand computing by accelerating the acquisition and deployment of innovative technology and computing resources throughout the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, data has become a form of currency. Today,

businesses and government are processing and storing more information than ever. This creates access, organization, and security problems for government agencies using outdated, legacy IT systems.

I worked in the technology sector for over a decade. We were doing cloud computing before the cloud even had a name. So I know first-hand the advantages cloud computing offers from a cost-saving, organization, and security perspective.

The private sector is transitioning to cloud computing systems at a rapid pace, but the government continues to lag behind. There are unnecessary impediments related to planning, funding, and procurement that inhibit Federal agencies from migrating to cloud computing services.

That is why I am proud to join my colleagues Senator MORAN, Senator UDALL, and Senator WARNER in introducing the Cloud IT Act. This bill will accelerate deployment of cloud computing services in the Federal government by removing impediments to investment. It will streamline the procurement process for IT tools and encourage the government to work more closely with the cloud computing industry.

Migrating Federal government systems to cloud computing services will reduce redundancies and save time and taxpayer dollars. I ask my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this much needed legislation.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 3269. A bill to require the Attorney General to make a determination as to whether cannabidiol should be a controlled substance and listed in a schedule under the Controlled Substances Act and to expand research on the potential medical benefits of cannabidiol and other marijuana components; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Cannabidiol Research Expansion Act of 2016, with my Judiciary Committee colleagues, Senators GRASSLEY, LEAHY, and TILLIS.

This narrowly focused legislation responsibly cuts the red tape that hinders marijuana research, paving the way for important studies to determine if cannabidiol, a non-psychoactive component of marijuana often referred to as CBD, can be a safe and effective medication for serious illnesses, such as intractable epilepsy.

It does this while maintaining safeguards to protect against illegal diversion.

First, the bill directs the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services to complete a scientific and medical evaluation of CBD within one year.

Based on this evaluation, the legislation directs the Department of Justice to make a scheduling recommendation for CBD that is independent of marijuana. This has never been done before.

Second, without sacrificing appropriate oversight, it streamlines the regulatory process for marijuana research.

In particular, it improves regulations dealing with changes to approved quantities of marijuana needed for research and approved research protocols.

It also expedites the Drug Enforcement Administration registration process for researching CBD and marijuana.

Third, this legislation seeks to increase medical research on CBD, while simultaneously reducing the stigma associated with conducting research on a Schedule I drug.

It does so by explicitly authorizing medical and osteopathic schools, research universities, and pharmaceutical companies to use a Schedule II Drug Enforcement Administration registration to conduct authorized medical research on CBD.

Given that the security requirements for conducting research on Schedule I and II drugs are nearly identical, this change would not jeopardize important safeguards against illegal diversion.

Fourth, the bill allows medical schools, research institutions, and pharmaceutical companies to produce the marijuana they need for authorized medical research. This will ensure that researchers have access to the material they need to develop proven, effective medicines.

Finally, the bill allows parents who have children with intractable epilepsy, as well as adults with intractable epilepsy, to possess and transport cannabidiol or other non-psychoactive components of marijuana used to treat this disease while research is ongoing.

To do so, parents and adults must be able to provide documentation that they or their child have been treated by a board-certified neurologist for at least 6 months, and have certifications from their neurologist that other treatment options have been exhausted, and that the potential benefits outweigh the harms of using these non-psychoactive components of marijuana.

The Cannabidiol Research Expansion Act will responsibly reduce barriers and spur additional research to ensure that CBD and other marijuana-derived medications are based on the most up to date scientific evidence.

I believe this bill is critical to help families across the country as they seek safe, effective medicines for serious illnesses, and I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important legislation.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 3270. A bill to prevent elder abuse and exploitation and improve the justice system's response to victims in elder abuse and exploitation cases; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I have fought for years to protect our

Nation's seniors from abuse and exploitation—initially, as former Chairman of the Senate Aging Committee, former Chairman of Senate Finance Committee, and more recently, as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Two weeks ago, I chaired a Judiciary Committee hearing on Protecting Older Americans from Financial Exploitation. At the hearing, we heard about numerous scams in which seniors were targeted time after time, resulting in their being defrauded, often with devastating consequences. We also heard that many older Americans don't report instances of elder abuse or exploitation due to embarrassment, a refusal to acknowledge that they were victimized, or reliance on the perpetrator as their caretaker.

Sadly, these accounts of elder abuse are nothing new. What has changed is that the scams targeting seniors are becoming increasingly sophisticated. That is one of the reasons why elder financial exploitation has been dubbed "the crime of the 21st century."

I have made it a top priority to get the federal government to step up its efforts to fight the abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of our Nation's seniors.

To this end, I recently called on the Justice Department to outline its efforts to prevent and respond to instances of elder abuse. First, I sent a letter to the Department to find out what it's doing to protect seniors from a new and particularly troubling form of exploitation: the photographing and online publication of nursing home residents in embarrassing and compromising situations.

I also sent a letter to inquire about the Department's efforts to fight imposter scams, in which fraudsters pose as employees of the IRS or another government agency, in order to deprive ordinary Americans of millions of dollars of their hard earned money.

Most recently, I asked about the data the Department is collecting on financial exploitation, as well as how this data is being used to support Federal efforts to protect America's seniors.

In its response to my inquiries, the Justice Department effectively admitted that it falls short in several respects. The Department said that it "does not collect data on the prevalence of elder financial exploitation nationwide." Further, the Department said that it can't provide statistical information on the number of cases it has prosecuted for elder financial exploitation.

What all this means is that we are not getting the full picture of elder financial exploitation.

We do know that some older Americans' trusting and polite nature, combined with their hard-earned retirement savings, make them particularly attractive targets for fraudsters. We also know that the abuse and exploitation of older Americans is on the rise and it can take many forms.

Financial exploitation is the most widespread form of elder abuse, costing America's seniors between an estimated \$2.9 billion and \$36 billion annually. But, sadly, its costs aren't limited to the negative effect on seniors' bank accounts. Victims suffer all sorts of negative effects, including diminished health, loss of independence, and psychological distress.

It is estimated that up to 37 percent of seniors in the United States are affected by some form of financial exploitation in any 5-year period.

In my home State of Iowa, so-called grandparent scams are on the rise. In these scams, fraudsters present themselves to an older American as a grandchild in distress, hoping to convince the grandparent to send cash or give out a credit card number.

Con artists are also using sweepstakes scams to steal money from seniors. A senior is called and told they have won a prize or sum of money. But before they can claim the supposed prize, the victim is required to pay taxes or processing fees. Once the money is paid to cover the taxes and fees, however, no prize ever materializes.

Other instances of elder financial exploitation are more personal in nature and have especially devastating effects. Some victims are pressured into signing over a deed, modifying a will, or giving a power of attorney. Americans have lost their farms, homes, and life savings to this form of fraud.

In short, elder abuse and exploitation is a serious problem, and it demands a strong response. It requires all of us to work together in a collaborative way.

So, today I am proud to introduce the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act. I thank my colleagues—Senators BLUMENTHAL, CORNYN, KLOBUCHAR, RUBIO, and BENNET for collaborating with me on this comprehensive bill's development and joining as original cosponsors. It takes a multi-pronged, bipartisan approach to combating the abuse and financial exploitation of our nation's senior citizens.

We've heard a need for specialized prosecutors and more focused efforts to combat abuse and exploitation. That is why the bill directs the Attorney General to designate at least one federal prosecutor in each U.S. Attorney's Office to serve as an Elder Justice Coordinator for that district.

To ensure that elder abuse is a priority for the Federal Trade Commission and the Justice Department, the bill also calls for each agency to have an Elder Justice Coordinator.

We also need to send a strong message that efforts to target our Nation's seniors won't be tolerated. That is why the bill enhances elder victims' access to restitution and increases penalties for criminals who use telemarketing or email in their schemes to defraud seniors.

The bill also requires that the Justice Department partner with the Department of Health and Human Serv-

ices to provide training and technical assistance to State and local governments on the investigation, prevention, prosecution, and mitigation of elder abuse and neglect.

Finally we have heard about the need for more data on financial exploitation and the government's response. Gathering accurate information about elder abuse is not only crucial to understanding the scope of the problem, but it is also essential in determining where resources should be allocated. So, the bill helps to accomplish that. It requires that data be collected from federal prosecutors and law enforcement in cases where an older American was the target of abuse or exploitation.

These and other reforms included in the bill are the product of bipartisan discussion, as well as insight from key stakeholders and those who've been battling on the front lines.

This 21st century crime requires a 21st century response. The Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act takes a strong step toward protecting our Nation's seniors, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. LEE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. VITTER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 3276. A bill to make habitual drunk drivers inadmissible and removable and to require the detention of any alien who is unlawfully present in the United States and has been charged with driving under the influence or driving while intoxicated; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the Obama administration is putting Americans into harm's way by releasing drunk drivers who are in the country illegally back onto our streets. This is unbelievable when you consider that every two minutes, a person is injured by a drunk driver, and every day in America, 27 people die as a result of a drunk driving crash. These numbers translate into real people.

I would like to talk about my constituent, Sarah Root, who was killed by a drunk driver the day she graduated from college. On January 31, 2016, Eswin Mejia, a Honduran national in the United States illegally, was drag racing in Omaha, NE, with a blood alcohol level more than three times the legal limit. He struck 21-year-old Sarah Root's vehicle from behind and she was killed. Mejia was charged with felony motor vehicle homicide. Although state authorities reportedly contacted ICE several times and requested the agency take custody of him prior to his release from state custody, ICE refused. He was released on bond and is now a fugitive from justice.

In Kentucky, Chelsea Hogue and Meghan Lake were seriously injured by a drunk driver in the country illegally who had been previously deported five times in one week. On February 7, 2016,

Jose Munoz Aguilar was arrested for drunk driving and colliding with a car occupied by the two young women, causing injuries to both women and putting one in a coma. Although Jose Aguilar was transferred to ICE custody, he was promptly released because he didn't meet the Obama administration's enforcement priorities. He remains at large.

In May, three people from a Texas family were killed by a suspected drunk driver who had an outstanding warrant for a previous drunk driving conviction. He had three prior DWI offenses. One of the three family members—18 year old Mauricio Ramirez—was scheduled to graduate from high school just a few short weeks later.

In Houston this May, an illegal immigrant who was driving drunk and evading authorities injured a high school senior and killed a young girl who were on their way home from prom. The driver had been previously deported and attempted to run from the scene.

On February 24, 2016, Esmid Valentine Pedraza was arrested in San Francisco, California, for the murder of Stacey Aguilar. Prior to allegedly committing the murder, Pedraza was reportedly arrested by ICE and placed in removal proceedings in August 2013 after Pedraza's conviction for DUI in Alameda County, California. Although ICE could have continued to detain him, ICE released him back onto the streets after he posted bond.

Mesa, AZ Police Department Sergeant Brandon Mendoza lost his life to an illegal immigrant who was driving the wrong way down a one-way street. The driver was three times over the legal limit and high on meth when he struck Sgt. Mendoza head on. Sgt. Mendoza had just finished his shift of keeping citizens and his community safe.

Police Officer Kevin Will of Houston, TX, was struck and killed by a drunk driver as he investigated a hit-and-run accident. The driver was in the country illegally.

In Phoenix, Police Officer Daryl Raetz was killed by a man who admitted to being drunk and high, and was in the country illegally. Officer Raetz was an Iraq war veteran and had been a police officer for 6 years. He left behind a wife and daughter.

Nobody argues that drunk driving is not a public safety risk, so it is remarkable that the Obama administration's own immigration enforcement priorities fail to take perpetrators off the street. Families coping with the grief of losing a loved one to such a senseless crime must also live with the reality that their government is quick to release offenders back into our communities.

Today, along with several other Senators, I am introducing the Taking Action Against Drunk Drivers Act. Our bill would ensure that federal immigration authorities take custody and hold anyone in the country illegally who

has been charged with driving under the influence, DUI, or driving while intoxicated, DWI, taking them off the streets and protecting the public.

Additionally, my bill would make immigrants with three DUI or DWI convictions inadmissible to and removable from the country. Finally, it would make three DUI or DWI convictions an aggravated felony under the Immigration and Nationality Act. This will allow for expedited removal and preclude eligibility for certain benefits and permanently bar legal admission into the country.

We cannot let this current system that promotes the reckless death of innocent Americans continue. I encourage my colleagues to join me in an effort to protect our citizens from these dangerous people.

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WARNER, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3281. A bill to extend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3281

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF IRAN SANCTIONS ACT OF 1996.

Section 13(b) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by striking "December 31, 2016" and inserting "December 31, 2026".

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 535—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE TRAFFICKING OF ILLICIT FENTANYL INTO THE UNITED STATES FROM MEXICO AND CHINA

Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 535

Whereas the United States continues to experience a prescription opioid and heroin use epidemic that claimed almost 30,000 lives in 2014;

Whereas fentanyl is a synthetic opioid and the euphoric effects of fentanyl are sometimes indistinguishable from the euphoric effects of heroin or morphine;

Whereas the effect of fentanyl can be approximately 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine;

Whereas although pharmaceutical fentanyl can be diverted for misuse, most fentanyl deaths are believed to be linked to illicitly

manufactured fentanyl and illicit versions of chemically similar compounds known as fentanyl analogs (collectively referred to in this preamble as "illicit fentanyl");

Whereas illicit fentanyl is potentially lethal even if only a very small quantity of illicit fentanyl is ingested or inhaled;

Whereas across the United States, illicit fentanyl use and related deaths are rising at alarming rates;

Whereas illicit fentanyl is cheaper to manufacture than heroin and the sale of illicit fentanyl is highly profitable for drug dealers;

Whereas illicit fentanyl is sold for its heroin-like effects and illicit fentanyl is often mixed with heroin, cocaine, or methamphetamine as a combination product, with or without the knowledge of the user;

Whereas illicit fentanyl is often produced to physically resemble other opioid pain medicines, such as oxycodone, which sell for high amounts on the street;

Whereas drug users often overdose on illicit fentanyl because users are unaware that they are ingesting illicit fentanyl and do not anticipate the toxicity and potential lethality of illicit fentanyl;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, between 2013 and 2014, the death rate from the use of synthetic opioids, including illicit fentanyl and synthetic opioid pain relievers other than methadone, increased 80 percent, and those deaths are largely attributable to fentanyl rather than other prescription synthetics;

Whereas, in 2015, the Drug Enforcement Administration (referred to in this preamble as the "DEA") issued a National Drug Threat Assessment Summary, which found that Mexican transnational criminal organizations are—

(1) one of the greatest criminal drug threats to the United States; and

(2) poly-drug organizations that use established transportation routes and distribution networks to traffic heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, and marijuana throughout the United States;

Whereas, in 2016, the DEA issued a National Heroin Threat Assessment Summary, which found that "starting in late 2013, several states reported spikes in overdose deaths due to fentanyl and its analog acetylfentanyl";

Whereas the 2016 National Heroin Threat Assessment Summary found that—

(1) Mexican drug traffickers are expanding their operations to gain a larger share of eastern United States heroin markets; and

(2) the availability of heroin is increasing throughout the United States;

Whereas between 2013 and 2014, more than 700 fentanyl-related deaths in the United States were attributable to illicit fentanyl;

Whereas the number of deaths attributable to illicit fentanyl may be significantly underreported because—

(1) coroners and medical examiners do not test, or lack the resources to test, routinely for fentanyl;

(2) crime laboratories lack the resources to test routinely for fentanyl; and

(3) illicit fentanyl deaths may erroneously be attributed to heroin;

Whereas, in March 2015, the DEA issued a nationwide alert on illicit fentanyl as a threat to health and public safety;

Whereas illicit fentanyl has the potential to endanger public health workers, first responders, and law enforcement personnel who may unwittingly come into contact with illicit fentanyl by accidentally inhaling airborne powder;

Whereas the 2015 National Drug Threat Assessment Summary found that—

(1) Mexico is the primary source for illicit fentanyl trafficked into the United States; and

(2) distributors in China are the source of the fentanyl analogs and the precursor chemicals to manufacture fentanyl analogs that are found in Mexico;

Whereas fentanyl produced illicitly in Mexico is—

(1) smuggled across the southwest border of the United States, or delivered through mail and express consignment couriers; and
(2) often mixed with heroin or diluents in the United States and then distributed in the same United States markets in which white powder heroin is distributed; and

Whereas United States law enforcement officials have recently seen—

(1) an influx of illicit fentanyl into the United States directly from China; and

(2) shipments of the equipment to manufacture illicit fentanyl, such as pill presses: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the use of illicit fentanyl in the United States and the resulting overdose deaths are a public health crisis;

(2) the trafficking of illicit fentanyl into the United States, especially the trafficking of illicit fentanyl by transnational criminal organizations, is a problem that requires close cooperation between the United States Government and the Governments of Mexico and China;

(3) the United States Government and the Governments of Mexico and China have a shared interest in, and responsibility for, stopping the trafficking of fentanyl into the United States and all 3 countries should develop joint actions to attain that goal;

(4) the United States should—

(A) support the Governments of Mexico and China in the efforts of the Governments of Mexico and China to stop the trafficking of illicit fentanyl into the United States;

(B) take further measures to reduce and prevent heroin and fentanyl consumption through the use of evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery services; and

(C) provide access to treatment and rehabilitation to help individuals with substance use disorders recover; and

(5) the United States Government, including the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, should use the broad diplomatic and law enforcement resources of the United States, in partnership with the Governments of Mexico and China, to stop the trafficking of illicit fentanyl into the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 536—PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 30 THROUGH NOVEMBER 5, 2016, AS “NATIONAL OBESITY CARE WEEK”

Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 536

Whereas the disease of obesity is a major source of concern across the United States, and more than one-third of adults in the United States are affected by obesity, with the number of people with severe obesity in the United States continuing to grow;

Whereas experts and researchers agree that obesity is a complex disease influenced by various physiological, environmental, and genetic factors;

Whereas, while prevention programs have successfully established the seriousness of the public health crisis posed by obesity, it is also imperative that individuals and fami-

lies currently affected by obesity receive comprehensive care and treatment;

Whereas studies show that bias against and stigma associated with people affected by obesity among general society and healthcare professionals are significant barriers to effectively treating the disease;

Whereas healthcare professionals, policymakers, patients, and families should regard obesity with the same level of seriousness with which other chronic diseases are regarded;

Whereas research suggests that weight loss of as little as 5 to 10 percent of the total weight of an individual affected by obesity can improve the associated health risks affecting many patients living with obesity and can thereby support the goals of Federal and State initiatives to reduce chronic disease, improve health outcomes, and help control healthcare costs;

Whereas healthcare professionals should treat patients with respect and compassion and should partner with patients to develop comprehensive and individualized approaches to weight loss and weight management that consider all appropriate treatment options, such as reduced-calorie diets, physical activity modifications, pharmacotherapy, and bariatric surgery; and

Whereas it will take a long-term collaborative effort, which will involve individual, corporate, and institutional partners in all fields taking active roles, to ignite the betterment of obesity care and treatment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) proclaims the week of October 30 through November 5, 2016, as “National Obesity Care Week”; and

(2) encourages all people in the United States to create a foundation of open communication to break barriers of misunderstanding and stigma regarding obesity and to improve the lives of all individuals affected by obesity and their families.

SENATE RESOLUTION 537—EX-PRESSING PROFOUND CONCERN ABOUT THE ONGOING POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN VENEZUELA, URGING THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND CALLING FOR RESPECT OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. NELSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KIRK, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 537

Whereas the deterioration of basic governance and the economic crisis in Venezuela have reached deeply troubling levels, which in turn have led to an unprecedented humanitarian situation in Venezuela where millions of people are suffering from severe shortages of essential medicines and basic food products;

Whereas Venezuela lacks more than 80 percent of the basic medical supplies and equipment needed to treat its population, including medicine to treat chronic illnesses and cancer as well as basic antibiotics, and 85 percent of pharmacies are at risk of bankruptcy, according to the Venezuelan Pharmaceutical Federation;

Whereas, despite the massive shortages of basic foodstuffs and essential medicines, President of Venezuela Nicolas Maduro has

rejected repeated requests from the majority of members of the National Assembly and civil society organizations to bring humanitarian aid into the country;

Whereas the International Monetary Fund assesses that, in Venezuela, inflation reached 275 percent and gross domestic product contracted 5.7 percent in 2015, and further projects that inflation will reach 720 percent and the gross domestic product will contract an additional 8 percent in 2016;

Whereas Venezuela’s political, economic, and humanitarian crisis is fueling social tensions that are resulting in growing incidents of public unrest, looting, and violence among citizens;

Whereas these social distortions are taking place amidst an alarming climate of violence as Caracas continues to have the highest per capita homicide rate in the world at 120 per 100,000 citizens, according to the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime;

Whereas the deterioration of governance in Venezuela has been exacerbated by widespread public corruption and the involvement of public officials in illicit narcotics trafficking and related money laundering, which has led to indictments by the United States Department of Justice and ongoing investigations by the United States Department of Treasury and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration;

Whereas domestic and international human rights groups recognize more than 85 political prisoners in Venezuela, including opposition leader and former Chacao mayor Leopoldo Lopez, Judge Maria Lourdes Afiuni, Caracas Mayor Antonio Ledezma, former Zulia governor Manuel Rosales, and former San Cristobal mayor Daniel Ceballos;

Whereas, in December 2015, the people of Venezuela elected the opposition coalition (Mesa de Unidad Democrática) to a two-thirds majority in the unicameral National Assembly, with 112 out of the 167 seats compared with 55 seats for the government’s Partido Socialista Unido de Venezuela party;

Whereas, in late December 2015, the outgoing National Assembly increased the number of seats in the Supreme Court of Venezuela and confirmed magistrates politically aligned with the Maduro Administration and, thereafter, the expanded Supreme Court has blocked four legislators, including 3 opposition legislators, from taking office;

Whereas, during the first 6 months of the new legislature, the Supreme Court has repeatedly issued politically motivated judgments to overturn legislation passed by the democratically elected National Assembly and block internal legislative procedures;

Whereas, in 2016, President Maduro has utilized emergency and legislative decree powers to bypass the National Assembly, which, alongside the actions of the Supreme Court, have severely undermined the principles of separation of powers in Venezuela;

Whereas, in May 2016, Organization of American States Secretary General Luis Almagro presented a 132-page report outlining grave alterations of the democratic order in Venezuela and invoked Article 20 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which calls on the OAS Permanent Council “to undertake a collective assessment of the situation”;

Whereas, in June 2016, at a joint press conference with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada and President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico, President Barack Obama stated, “Given the very serious situation in Venezuela and the worsening plight of the Venezuelan people, together we’re calling on the government and opposition to engage in meaningful dialogue and urge the Venezuelan government to respect the rule of law and the authority of the National Assembly.”; and

Whereas, at the joint press conference with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President Peña Nieto, President Barack Obama continued, "Political prisoners should be released. The democratic process should be respected and that includes legitimate efforts to pursue a recall referendum consistent with Venezuelan law.": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its profound concern about widespread shortages of essential medicines and basic food products faced by the people of Venezuela, and urges President Maduro to permit the delivery of humanitarian assistance;

(2) calls on the Government of Venezuela to immediately release all political prisoners, to provide protections for freedom of expression and assembly, and to respect internationally recognized human rights;

(3) supports meaningful efforts towards a dialogue that leads to respect for Venezuela's constitutional mechanisms and resolves the country's political, economic, social, and humanitarian crisis;

(4) affirms its support for OAS Secretary General Almagro's invocation of Article 20 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and urges the OAS Permanent Council, which represents all of the organization's member states, to undertake a collective assessment of the constitutional and democratic order in Venezuela;

(5) expresses its great concern over the Venezuelan executive's lack of respect for the principle of separation of powers, its overreliance on emergency decree powers, and its subjugation of judicial independence;

(6) calls on the Government of Venezuela and security forces to respect the Constitution of Venezuela, including constitutional provisions that provide Venezuelan citizens with the right to peacefully pursue a fair and timely recall referendum for their president this year if they so choose;

(7) stresses the urgency of strengthening the rule of law and increasing efforts to combat impunity and public corruption in Venezuela, which has bankrupted a resource-rich country, fuels rising social tensions, and contributes to elevated levels of crime and violence; and

(8) urges the President of the United States to provide full support for OAS efforts in favor of constitutional and democratic solutions to the political impasse, and to instruct appropriate Federal agencies to hold officials of the Government of Venezuela accountable for violations of United States law and abuses of internationally recognized human rights.

SENATE RESOLUTION 538—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2016 AS "NATIONAL SPINAL CORD INJURY AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. NELSON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 538

Whereas approximately 282,000 individuals in the United States live with a spinal cord injury;

Whereas spinal cord injuries account for billions of dollars in health care costs and lost wages in the United States;

Whereas approximately 40,000 spinal cord injury victims are veterans who suffered a spinal cord injury while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of spinal cord injuries and the third leading cause of traumatic brain injuries;

Whereas motor vehicle accidents account for approximately 50 percent of all spinal cord injuries to children under the age of 18;

Whereas there is an urgent need to develop new neuroprotection, pharmacological, and regeneration treatments to reduce and prevent future incidences of paralysis and reverse current incidences of paralysis; and

Whereas increased education and investment in research are key factors in improving outcomes for victims of spinal cord injuries, improving the quality of life of victims of spinal cord injuries, and ultimately curing paralysis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2016 as "National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month";

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month;

(3) continues to support research to find better treatments, therapies, and a cure for spinal cord injuries;

(4) supports clinical trials for promising new therapies that offer hope to individuals living with paralysis; and

(5) commends the dedication of national, regional, and local organizations, researchers, doctors, volunteers, and people of the United States that are working to improve the quality of life of individuals living with a spinal cord injury and the families of individuals living with a spinal cord injury.

SENATE RESOLUTION 539—CONDEMNING THE HORRIFIC ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND HATRED IN DALLAS, TEXAS, ON JULY 7, 2016, AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND PRAYERS FOR ALL THOSE IMPACTED BY THE TRAGEDY

Mr. CORNYN submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 539

Whereas, on July 7, 2016, during a rally and march in Dallas, Texas, a lone gunman opened fire, killing 5 police officers and wounding 9 other officers and 2 bystanders;

Whereas this act of violence and hatred is the deadliest attack on United States law enforcement officers since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001;

Whereas this act of violence and hatred occurred during a lawful, peaceful, nonviolent political demonstration;

Whereas this attack took place with the intention of targeting police officers;

Whereas Federal, State, and local law enforcement personnel performed their duties admirably during the attack and risked their lives for the safety of the people of Dallas; and

Whereas the residents of Dallas came together to support the victims, and the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the heinous attack that occurred in Dallas, Texas, on July 7, 2016;

(2) expresses its belief that an attack upon a police officer is an affront to the rule of law and the promise of justice, domestic tranquility, common defense, and general welfare and the blessings of liberty secured by the Constitution of the United States;

(3) offers its condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of those who were killed while protecting the city of Dallas and expresses its hope for the quick and complete recovery of the survivors wounded in the shooting;

(4) applauds the bravery and dedication exhibited by the hundreds of Federal, State,

and local law enforcement officials, emergency medical responders, and others who offered their support and assistance; and

(5) stands together united against violence and hatred, and in support of the brave and honorable police officers across the United States who work every day to keep the country safe.

SENATE RESOLUTION 540—COMMENDING THE OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSIONED CORPS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE FOR THEIR WORK IN FIGHTING EBOLA

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 540

Whereas the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service (in this preamble referred to as the "Commissioned Corps") traces its antecedents to the creation of the Marine Hospital Service in the Act entitled "An Act for the relief of sick and disabled seamen", approved July 16, 1798;

Whereas the Commissioned Corps today consists of approximately 6,700 commissioned officers who serve in 11 specialty areas;

Whereas thousands of officers of the Commissioned Corps have deployed in the aftermath of natural disasters such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and Superstorm Sandy;

Whereas almost 900 officers of the Commissioned Corps deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan to support members of the Armed Forces stationed in those locations;

Whereas the officers of the Commissioned Corps constitute a rapidly-deployable force of medical professionals who serve public health in the United States and foreign countries;

Whereas more than 300 officers of the Commissioned Corps deployed to Liberia to treat Ebola patients, voluntarily accepting the risks associated with treating patients who carried this deadly disease;

Whereas hundreds of other officers of the Commissioned Corps provided support to the officers who were deployed to Liberia;

Whereas the Ebola epidemic in Liberia no longer represents a public health emergency of international concern, as determined by the World Health Organization, due in part to the intervention of officers of the Commissioned Corps; and

Whereas the United States was spared the danger of an Ebola outbreak because the disease was contained in West Africa: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commends all of the officers of the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service who participated in the effort to prevent an Ebola outbreak in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 541—RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK AND HALEAKALA NATIONAL PARK IN THE STATE OF HAWAII, AND DESIGNATING AUGUST 1, 2016, AS "HAWAII VOLCANOES AND HALEAKALA NATIONAL PARKS DAY"

Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 541

Whereas the Hawaii National Park was established by section 1 of the Act entitled "An Act to establish a national park in the Territory of Hawaii", approved August 1, 1916 (16 U.S.C. 391), consisting of tracts of land on the island of Hawaii and on the island of Maui;

Whereas the portion of the Hawaii National Park situated on the island of Hawaii was renamed Hawaii Volcanoes National Park by Public Law 87-278 (16 U.S.C. 391d);

Whereas Hawaii Volcanoes National Park protects and interprets the largest and most continuously active shield volcanoes in the United States and provides the best physical evidence of island-building processes, which continue to form the 2,000 mile-long Hawaiian archipelago;

Whereas Hawaii Volcanoes National Park provides access to 2 of the most active volcanoes in the world and an opportunity to understand and appreciate the distinctive geology and natural and cultural adaptations to the land;

Whereas, through Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, the National Park Service protects, restores, and studies unique and diverse ecosystems and endemic species that are the result of more than 30,000,000 years of evolution in an isolated environment characterized by its active volcanic landscape and wide climate variations;

Whereas, in 1978, more than 100,000 acres of the park were designated as wilderness, which constitutes the largest and most ecologically diverse wilderness in the Pacific Islands, by section 401(6) of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-625; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note);

Whereas Hawaii Volcanoes National Park embraces the Native Hawaiian spiritual significance of the landscape and interprets related cultural traditions;

Whereas the park encompasses sites, structures, objects, and landscapes that document more than 600 years of human life and activities on an active volcanic landscape;

Whereas the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization designated Hawaii Volcanoes National Park as a biosphere reserve in 1980 and as a World Heritage Site on December 10, 1987;

Whereas, effective July 1, 1961, Haleakala National Park was established by Public Law 86-744 (16 U.S.C. 396b) as a separate unit of the National Park System on the detached portion of the Hawaii National Park on the island of Maui;

Whereas Haleakala National Park protects a wild volcanic landscape with a wide array of fragile and diverse native ecosystems, including plant and animal species found nowhere else on Earth;

Whereas extreme gradients of rainfall and temperature shape the remarkable biodiversity of Haleakala National Park, which rises approximately 10,000 feet from the sea to the summit of the Haleakala shield volcano;

Whereas Haleakala National Park preserves places, resources, stories, and intangible elements of profound sacred importance to Native Hawaiians;

Whereas those elements are linked by the piko, the lifeline that honors the past and connects the living Hawaiian culture of today to future generations;

Whereas Haleakala National Park is known for its exceptional scenery, including sunrises and sunsets above the clouds, coursing waterfalls, clear pools, and crashing waves, lush rainforests, and sparkling, star-filled skies;

Whereas the Haleakala shield volcano, one of the highest peaks in the Pacific, is the result of countless volcanic eruptions during the past 2,000,000 years and unique erosion in action;

Whereas Public Law 94-567 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note) designated more than 19,000 acres of Haleakala National Park as wilderness in 1976, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization designated the park as a biosphere reserve in 1980; and

Whereas Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and Haleakala National Park were the first national park units in a territory of the United States and are 2 of the 8 units of the National Park System in the Hawaiian islands: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates and celebrates Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and Haleakala National Park on the 100th anniversary of their establishment;

(2) acknowledges the range of natural and cultural wonders that make up the other national parks and monuments of the State of Hawaii, including—

(A) Honouliuli National Monument;
(B) Kalaupapa National Historical Park;
(C) Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park;

(D) Puuhonua o Honaunau National Historical Park;

(E) Puukohola Heiau National Historic Site; and

(F) World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument;

(3) encourages the people of Hawaii and of the United States to visit those parks and monuments, which are national treasures; and

(4) designates August 1, 2016, as "Hawaii Volcanoes and Haleakala National Parks Day".

SENATE RESOLUTION 542—RECOGNIZING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LANHAM ACT BY DESIGNATING JULY 2016 AS "NATIONAL ANTI-COUNTERFEITING CONSUMER EDUCATION AND AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 542

Whereas July 5, 2016, marks the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Act of July 5, 1946 (60 Stat. 427, ch. 540; 15 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.) (commonly referred to as the "Trademark Act of 1946" or the "Lanham Act") by President Harry S. Truman;

Whereas the Lanham Act provided the foundation for modern Federal trademark protection, creating remedies for brand owners suffering from trademark infringement and helping consumers by reducing confusingly similar products in the marketplace;

Whereas the Lanham Act was named for Representative Fritz Lanham of Texas, the primary sponsor of the Act, who recognized that the uniformity provided by the establishment of a Federal trademark law was necessary to create a nationwide framework for the protection of the trademarks of businesses, including logos, words, phrases, names, packaging, scents, shapes, and colors;

Whereas the Lanham Act has enabled the United States Patent and Trademark Office to administer a strong and effective Federal trademark registration system that helps trademark and brand owners protect consumers from confusion and deception in the marketplace and in commerce;

Whereas Representative Lanham stated that a clear purpose of the Lanham Act was to "protect legitimate business and the consumers of the country";

Whereas in 2012, approximately 24,000,000 trademarks were in force around the world;

Whereas the Lanham Act has provided 7 decades of protection for the consumers and industries of the United States, which is of growing importance given the explosion of counterfeiting activity associated with the growth of both global commerce and electronic commerce (commonly referred to as "e-commerce");

Whereas counterfeit products undermine laws, including the Lanham Act, that serve to safeguard consumers and brand owners against deceptive products in the marketplace;

Whereas counterfeiters use deceptive practices to entice consumers to purchase counterfeit goods including—

(1) personal care products, including toothpaste, shampoo, laundry detergents, soaps, and cosmetics;

(2) toys;

(3) automotive parts;

(4) military equipment;

(5) foods;

(6) medicines and pharmaceuticals;

(7) petroleum products, including motor and engine oil;

(8) computer chips;

(9) agricultural pesticides and seeds; and

(10) apparel, footwear, and accessories;

Whereas counterfeit products pose actual and potential harm to the consumers of the United States, especially the most vulnerable consumers in society, such as senior citizens, children, and individuals who might fall prey to the deceptive tactics of counterfeiters;

Whereas counterfeit products threaten the economy of the United States and job creation in the United States, given that intellectual property is a cornerstone of the economy;

Whereas, according to a report issued on April 18, 2016, by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the manufacturing, trade, and consumption of counterfeit products is on the rise and trade in counterfeit products continues to increase, escalating from approximately \$250,000,000,000 in 2008 to as much as \$461,000,000,000 in 2013;

Whereas there is a need to support the efforts of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator and the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center to minimize counterfeit activity and educate consumers about the illegal activities that consumer money might support when consumers knowingly or unknowingly purchase counterfeit products;

Whereas brand owners, including corporations and medium-sized and small businesses, collectively spend billions of dollars annually to remove counterfeit products from the marketplace, including the online marketplace, in an effort to safeguard consumers from counterfeit products;

Whereas, over time, counterfeiting contributes to the steady erosion of the reputation of brand owners and the trustworthiness and goodwill such owners establish with consumers to provide reliable and safe products;

Whereas the Congressional Trademark Caucus is actively working to raise awareness of the value of trademarks and the impact of trademarks on national and State economies, as well as the threat posed by counterfeit products in undermining the safeguards that trademark protections provide for consumers and brand owners alike;

Whereas many governmental and non-governmental entities, including Federal enforcement agencies, the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center, State enforcement agencies, and consumer groups, share responsibility for, and dedicate substantial resources towards, educating the

people of the United States about the potential harms that can arise from counterfeit products in the marketplace; and

Whereas recognition and commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Lanham Act serves as a means of educating the people of the United States about the importance of further raising awareness of the dangers counterfeit products pose to consumer health and safety: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Act of July 5, 1946 (60 Stat. 427, ch. 540; 15 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.) (commonly referred to as the “Trademark Act of 1946” or the “Lanham Act”) by President Harry S. Truman;

(2) designates July 2016 as “National Anti-Counterfeiting Consumer Education and Awareness Month”;

(3) supports the goals and ideals of National Anti-Counterfeiting Consumer Education and Awareness Month to educate the public and raise public awareness about the actual and potential dangers counterfeit products pose to consumer health and safety;

(4) affirms the continuing importance and need for comprehensive Federal, State, and private sector-supported education and awareness efforts designed to equip the consumers of the United States with the information and tools they need to safeguard against illegal counterfeit products in traditional commerce, internet commerce, and other electronic commerce platforms;

(5) encourages the people of the United States to observe and celebrate the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Lanham Act with appropriate anti-counterfeiting education and awareness activities; and

(6) recognizes and reaffirms the commitment of the United States to combating counterfeiting by promoting awareness about the actual and potential harm of counterfeiting to consumers and brand owners and by promoting new education programs and campaigns designed to reduce the supply of and demand for counterfeit products.

SENATE RESOLUTION 543—COMMEMORATING THE PAST SUCCESS OF THE UNITED STATES OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC TEAMS AND SUPPORTING THE UNITED STATES OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC TEAMS IN THE 2016 OLYMPIC GAMES AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. NELSON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 543

Whereas, for more than 120 years, the Olympic Movement has built a better and more peaceful world by educating young people through amateur athletics, bringing together athletes from many countries in friendly competition, and forging new relationships bound by friendship, solidarity, and fair play;

Whereas the 2016 Olympic Games will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from August 5, 2016, to August 21, 2016, and the 2016 Paralympic Games will take place in Rio de Janeiro from September 7, 2016, to September 18, 2016;

Whereas, at the 2016 Olympic Games, more than 200 countries will compete in more than 300 events in 42 disciplines, and at the 2016 Paralympic Games, approximately 170 countries will compete in 528 events in 23 disciplines;

Whereas the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams have won 1,711 gold medals, 1,415 silver medals, and 1,351 bronze medals, totaling 4,477 medals, during the past Olympic and Paralympic Games;

Whereas the people of the United States stand united in respect for and admiration of the members of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams and the athletic accomplishments, sportsmanship, and dedication to excellence of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams;

Whereas the many accomplishments of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of many others, including individuals on the United States Olympic Committee and the National Governing Bodies for Sport and the many administrators, coaches, and family members who provided critical support to the athletes;

Whereas the United States takes great pride in the qualities of commitment to excellence, grace under pressure, and good will toward other competitors exhibited by the athletes of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams; and

Whereas the Olympic Movement celebrates competition, fair play, and the pursuit of dreams: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) applauds the athletes and coaches of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams and their families who support them;

(2) supports the athletes of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams in their endeavors at the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;

(3) thanks the members of the United States Olympics Committee and the National Governing Bodies for Sport for their unwavering support of the athletes of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams; and

(4) supports the goals and ideals of the Olympic Games.

SENATE RESOLUTION 544—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING COMPLIANCE ENFORCEMENT OF RUSSIAN VIOLATIONS OF THE OPEN SKIES TREATY

Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 544

Whereas the Treaty on Open Skies, done at Helsinki March 24, 1992, and entered into force January 1, 2002 (in this resolution referred to as the “Open Skies Treaty”), which established a regime for unarmed aerial observation flights over the entire territory of its participants, is one of the most wide-ranging international efforts to date to promote openness and transparency of military forces and activities;

Whereas the United States Government has declared that strengthening and maintaining European security is a top priority for the United States, that the Open Skies Treaty is a key element of the Euro-Atlantic security architecture, and that arms control is a key part of that effort because robust multilateral conventional arms control arrangements contribute to a more stable and secure European continent;

Whereas, according to Secretary of State James Baker, addressing the Open Skies Conference in 1990, the end of the Cold War gave the Open Skies Treaty new importance

as a stabilizing factor in East-West relations, openness and transparency in military matters offered “the most direct path to greater predictability and reduced risk of inadvertent war,” and Open Skies Treaty was thus “potentially the most ambitious measure to build confidence ever undertaken”;

Whereas, according to the President’s letter of submittal for the Open Skies Treaty provided to Congress by the Secretary of State on August 12, 1992, it is the purpose of the Open Skies Treaty to promote openness and transparency of military forces and activities and to enhance mutual understanding and confidence by giving States Party a direct role in gathering information about military forces and activities of concern to them;

Whereas, according to the Report on Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments published by the Department of State on April 11, 2016 (in this resolution referred to as the “2016 Compliance Report”), the Russian Federation “continues not to meet its obligations [under the Open Skies Treaty] to allow effective observation of its entire territory, raising serious compliance concerns”;

Whereas, according to the 2016 Compliance Report, Russian conduct giving rise to compliance concerns has continued since the Open Skies Treaty entered into force in 2002 and worsened in 2010, 2014, and 2015; and

Whereas, according to the 2016 Compliance Report, ongoing efforts by the United States and other States Party to the Open Skies Treaty to address these concerns through dialogue with the Russian Federation “have not resolved any of the compliance concerns.”; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) restrictions upon the ability of Open Skies Treaty aircraft to overfly all portions of the territory of a State Party impede openness and transparency of military forces and activities and undermine mutual understanding and confidence, especially when coupled with an ongoing refusal to address compliance concerns raised by other States Party subject to such restrictions;

(2) it is essential to the accomplishment of the purpose of the Open Skies Treaty that Open Skies Treaty aircraft be able to observe the entire territory of a State Party in a timely and reciprocal manner as provided for under the Open Skies Treaty;

(3) the Russian Federation’s restrictions upon the ability of Open Skies Treaty aircraft to overfly all portions of the territory of the Russian Federation constitute violations of the Open Skies Treaty; and

(4) for so long as the Russian Federation remains in noncompliance with the Open Skies Treaty, the United States should take such measures as are necessary to bring about the Russian Federation’s return to full compliance with its treaty obligations, including, as appropriate, through the imposition of restrictions upon Russian overflights of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 545—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF JULY 15, 2016, AS “LEIOMYOSARCOMA AWARENESS DAY”

Ms. STABENOW submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 545

Whereas a soft tissue sarcoma is a rare type of cancer, accounting for approximately 1 percent of newly diagnosed cancers;

Whereas Leiomyosarcoma (referred to in this preamble as "LMS") is a malignant subtype of soft tissue sarcoma that originates in smooth muscle, often in the walls of blood vessels;

Whereas LMS is highly aggressive and can be found throughout the body, but is especially concentrated in the uterus, abdominal cavity, and extremities;

Whereas the National Institutes of Health classifies LMS as a rare disease;

Whereas most oncologists will only see a few cases of LMS throughout a career;

Whereas the causes of LMS are still unknown;

Whereas LMS is largely resistant to standard chemotherapeutic agents, radiation treatment, and current immunotherapies;

Whereas multidisciplinary care coordination teams, because of their expertise and experience, are critical to the health of LMS patients;

Whereas LMS research will allow medical professionals to improve the quality of care for LMS patients, lead to better clinical outcomes, and promote longer survival for LMS patients; and

Whereas increased education and awareness about LMS will contribute to the well-being of the communities of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of July 15, 2016, as "Leiomyosarcoma Awareness Day";

(2) recognizes the challenges faced by Leiomyosarcoma patients; and

(3) commends the dedication of organizations, volunteers, researchers, and caregivers across the country working to improve the quality of life of Leiomyosarcoma patients and the families of Leiomyosarcoma patients.

SENATE RESOLUTION 546—HONORING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE UNITED STATES GRAIN STANDARDS ACT

Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 546

Whereas before the enactment in 1916 of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 71 et seq.) (referred to in this preamble as the "Act") and the United States Warehouse Act (7 U.S.C. 241 et seq.)—

(1) the grading, weighing, and warehousing of grain was regulated exclusively by States;

(2) there existed no uniform, nationwide system to inspect, weigh, and store grain; and

(3) each State enacted laws, standards, and regulations relating to the inspection, weighing, and storage of grain;

Whereas, on August 11, 1916, the 64th Congress passed the Act, which established national uniformity in grain standards;

Whereas, before 1916, foreign and domestic purchasers of grain were subject to practices that could result in a poor quality of grain, despite inspection certificates indicating higher grades, and farmers and others involved in the United States grain trade suffered as a result;

Whereas, in 1916, Congress established an official inspection and certification system that—

(1) made available official inspection and certification;

(2) prohibited conflicts of interest by personnel of the official inspection and certification system;

(3) authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to use administrative sanctions to prevent corrupt practices; and

(4) established prohibitions on certain acts and penalties for violations;

Whereas, in 1976, Congress amended the Act to require official inspection and certification for grain exports and provide that any interested party may request official inspection and certification for any United States grain;

Whereas agricultural producers and purchasers benefitted from a system that generated certainty and confidence in the uniformity of inspection methods, weighing, and grading under rules and regulations protected by law;

Whereas, on October 21, 1976, Congress amended the Act to establish the Federal Grain Inspection Service to preserve the credibility and integrity of the United States grain market;

Whereas 2016 is the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Federal Grain Inspection Service to facilitate the marketing of United States grain commodities;

Whereas for 100 years the Act has supported a system of marketing for United States grain; and

Whereas, in 2016, the Act still provides certainty and transparency for United States agriculture and consumers involved in the international grain trade: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the significance of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 71 et seq.); and

(2) finds that the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 71 et seq.) remains necessary to facilitate the movement of United States grain into the marketplace by providing agricultural producers, handlers, processors, exporters, and international buyers an internationally recognized standard in sampling, inspection, process verification, weighing, and stowage examination services that accurately and consistently describe the quality and quantity of grain commodities traded domestically and internationally.

SENATE RESOLUTION 547—RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN TREE FARM SYSTEM

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 547

Whereas forests, covering one-third of the land in the United States, provide clean air and drinking water, abundant wildlife habitats, recreation spaces, and renewable resources for buildings, furniture, energy, and paper needs, and also serve as an economic driver supporting well-paying jobs across the country;

Whereas most of the forests of the United States are owned by families and individuals who reside in and steward rural regions;

Whereas, in 1941, the American Tree Farm System (in this preamble referred to as the "ATFS") was founded to help family and individual woodland owners sustain forests and the benefits that the forests provide;

Whereas the ATFS is composed of more than 79,000 individuals and families, who together manage more than 20,500,000 acres of forest;

Whereas the ATFS remains a strong and essential program to conserve and manage the forests of the United States and the benefits forests provide, especially in the face of challenges like wildfires, invasive insects and diseases, and growing development pressures;

Whereas tree farmers invest time, manpower, and personal funds to practice sustainable forest management so that people across the United States can enjoy the benefits forests provide;

Whereas the ATFS is made possible by volunteers from local small woodlands associations, conservation organizations, State forestry agencies, forest products companies, and the Cooperative Extension System;

Whereas, to support family forests, family woodland owners, and continued voluntary conservation of working forests, it is important to expand the reach of ATFS to additional woodland owners; and

Whereas 14 States in the United States have approved similar resolutions recognizing the importance of the ATFS: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 75th anniversary of the American Tree Farm System;

(2) encourages the public to participate in activities that celebrate the anniversary and highlight the importance of this vital program, working family-owned forests, and the clean water, wildlife habitats, and wood supply that forests provide for all people in the United States; and

(3) supports conservation and management of the trees and forests of the United States through landowner participation in—

(A) the conservation reserve program established under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.);

(B) the environmental quality incentives program established under chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa et seq.);

(C) the conservation stewardship program established under subchapter B of chapter 2 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3838d et seq.);

(D) the agricultural conservation easement program established under subtitle H of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865 et seq.); and

(E) the forest stewardship program established under section 5 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103a).

SENATE RESOLUTION 548—CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION'S VIKING MISSION LANDING ON THE SURFACE OF MARS

Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 548

Whereas Viking 1 launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on August 20, 1975;

Whereas Viking 1 spent nearly a year in space before it landed on the surface of Mars on July 20, 1976, on the western slope of the Chryse Planitia at 22.3 degrees north latitude and 48.0 degrees longitude;

Whereas the Viking 1 Lander was the first American spacecraft to land on Mars and the first spacecraft of any nation to successfully land on Mars and perform its mission;

Whereas the United States remains to this day the only nation to successfully land on the surface of Mars and transmit images back to Earth;

Whereas the Viking Mission produced over 4,500 photographs of the surface of Mars, including the first color images of the surface of Mars;

Whereas the Viking Mission produced the first scientific data from the surface of Mars;

Whereas the Viking orbiters mapped 97 percent of the Martian surface;

Whereas the Viking 1 Lander continued its mission for 2,307 days;

Whereas the Viking Mission was NASA's first comprehensive mission to seek evidence that Mars could have the potential to support life, and it discovered that Mars has an environment modified by the interaction with water and complex surface chemistry;

Whereas the Viking Mission revolutionized our scientific understanding of the Red Planet, led to future exploration of Mars and the Solar System, and was one of the first stepping stones for the human exploration of Mars: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the academic and industry contributors to the Viking Mission for leading the way in the exploration of Mars;

(2) recognizes the importance of the Viking Mission to the long-term exploration of the solar system by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and to the search for life beyond Earth;

(3) encourages the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to continue on the path to landing American astronauts on the surface of Mars; and

(4) encourages the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the American scientific community to continue to promote space exploration and scientific discovery across the solar system.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 48—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE ITALIAN SUPREME COURT OF CASSATION SHOULD DOMESTICATE AND RECOGNIZE JUDGMENTS ISSUED BY UNITED STATES COURTS ON BEHALF OF UNITED STATES VICTIMS OF TERRORISM, AND THAT THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SHOULD CEASE ITS POLITICAL INTERFERENCE WITH ITALY'S INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY, WHICH IT CARRIES OUT IN THE INTERESTS OF STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM SUCH AS THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 48

Whereas, in 1996, Congress passed the Terrorism Exception to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act to give United States citizens a private means of redress for injuries and deaths caused by state-sponsored acts of terrorism (originally codified at section 1605(a)(7) of title 28, United States Code and subsequently amended and re-codified at section 1605A of title 28, United States Code) (in this resolution referred to as the "Terrorism Exception");

Whereas the Terrorism Exception continues to be an important tool for the United States Government to protect the interests of its nationals, and to deter global terrorism;

Whereas the families of Alisa Flatow, Sarah Duker, and Matthew Eisenfeld, United States students killed in Iran-sponsored

bombings, secured judgments against the Islamic Republic of Iran in United States Federal court for its role in those murders;

Whereas the families of Alisa Flatow, Sarah Duker, and Matthew Eisenfeld attempted to enforce those United States judgments against Iranian assets held in Italy;

Whereas the families of Alisa Flatow, Sarah Duker, and Matthew Eisenfeld initially domesticated their judgments in Italian court;

Whereas the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs entered appearances in subsequent proceedings on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran, interfering with the domestication and successfully causing the Italian Supreme Court of Cassation (Italy's highest court of appeal) to overturn the Court of Appeals of Rome's judgment in favor of these United States terrorism victims (Islamic Republic of Iran v. Flatow, Cass., sez. un., 22 giugno 2007, n. 14570 (It.); Islamic Republic of Iran v. Eisenfeld, Cass., sez. un., 22 giugno 2007, n. 14571 (It.));

Whereas the Italian Supreme Court of Cassation condemned the Terrorism Exception—a crucial United States antiterrorism statute—as a violation of international law on the grounds that it gives United States citizens a remedy for acts of terrorism committed outside of the United States (Flatow v. Islamic Republic of Iran, Cass., sez. un., 28 ottobre 2015, n. 21946 (It.); Eisenfeld v. Islamic Republic of Iran, Cass., sez. un., 28 ottobre 2015, n. 21947 (It.));

Whereas the Italian Supreme Court of Cassation therefore refuses to recognize any judgments issued by United States courts under the Terrorism Exception (id.);

Whereas Congress will use every tool at its disposal to seek justice for United States citizens who are murdered in acts of terrorism, including attacks committed outside the United States; and

Whereas United States courts have applied the Terrorism Exception to bring justice to European Union victims of state-sponsored terrorism directed against United States nationals (see, e.g., Hurst v. Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 474 F. Supp. 2d 19 (D.D.C. 2007); Rein v. Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 995 F. Supp. 325 (E.D.N.Y. 1998)): Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Italy has violated the principle of reciprocity governing the mutual recognition of domestic court awards between our two nations;

(2) the intervention by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on behalf of Iran against victims of Iranian terrorism was initiated to the detriment of both United States and European Union terrorism victims; and

(3) the European Court of Human Rights should—

(A) overturn the Italian Supreme Court of Cassation's erroneous rulings in Flatow v. Islamic Republic of Iran (Cass., sez. un., 28 ottobre 2015, n. 21946 (It.)) and Eisenfeld v. Islamic Republic of Iran (Cass., sez. un., 28 ottobre 2015, n. 21947 (It.)); and

(B) order the Italian Supreme Court of Cassation to recognize the United States judgments held by the Flatow, Duker, and Eisenfeld families against Iran.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 49—SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO STOP THE THEFT, ILLEGAL POSSESSION OR SALE, TRANSFER, AND EXPORT OF TRIBAL CULTURAL ITEMS OF INDIANS, ALASKA NATIVES, AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS IN THE UNITED STATES AND INTERNATIONALLY

Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs:

S. CON. RES. 49

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This concurrent resolution may be cited as the "Protection of the Right of Tribes to stop the Export of Cultural and Traditional Patrimony Resolution" or the "PROTECT Patrimony Resolution".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this resolution:

(1) **NATIVE AMERICAN.**—The term "Native American" means—

(A) an Indian tribe (as defined in section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001));

(B) a member of an Indian tribe described in subparagraph (A); or

(C) a Native Hawaiian (as defined in section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001)).

(2) **TRIBAL CULTURAL ITEM.**—The term "tribal cultural item" has the meaning given the term "cultural item" in section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001).

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Tribal cultural items—

(A) have ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to a Native American group or culture;

(B) cannot be alienated, appropriated, or conveyed by any individual; and

(C) are vital to Native American cultural survival and the maintenance of Native American ways of life.

(2) The nature and description of tribal cultural items are sensitive and to be treated with respect and confidentiality, as appropriate.

(3) Violators often export tribal cultural items internationally with the intent of evading Federal and tribal laws.

(4) Tribal cultural items continue to be removed from the possession of Native Americans and sold in black or public markets in violation of Federal and tribal laws, including laws designed to protect Native American cultural property rights.

(5) The illegal trade of tribal cultural items involves a sophisticated and lucrative black market, where the items are traded through domestic markets and then are often exported internationally.

(6) Auction houses in foreign countries have held sales of tribal cultural items from the Pueblo of Acoma, the Pueblo of Laguna, the Pueblo of San Felipe, the Hopi Tribe, and other Indian tribes.

(7) After tribal cultural items are exported internationally, Native Americans have difficulty stopping the sale of the items and securing their repatriation to their home communities, where the items belong.

(8) Federal agencies have a responsibility to consult with Native Americans to stop the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items.

(9) An increase in the investigation and successful prosecution of violations of the

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470aa et seq.) is necessary to deter illegal trading in tribal cultural items.

(10) Many Indian tribes and tribal organizations have passed resolutions condemning the theft and sale of tribal cultural items, including the following:

(A) The National Congress of American Indians passed Resolutions SAC-12-008 and SD-15-075 to call on the United States, in consultation with Native Americans—

(i) to address international repatriation; and

(ii) to take affirmative actions to stop the theft and illegal sale of tribal cultural items both domestically and internationally.

(B) The All Pueblo Council of Governors, representative of 20 Pueblo Indian tribes—

(i) noted that the Pueblo Indian tribes of the Southwestern United States have been disproportionately affected by the sale of tribal cultural items both domestically and internationally in violation of Federal and tribal laws; and

(ii) passed Resolutions 2015-12 and 2015-13 to call on the United States, in consultation with Native Americans—

(I) to address international repatriation; and

(II) to take affirmative actions to stop the theft and illegal sale of tribal cultural items both domestically and internationally.

(C) The United South and Eastern Tribes, an intertribal organization comprised of 26 federally recognized Indian tribes, passed Resolution 2015:007, which calls on the United States to address all means to support the repatriation of tribal cultural items from beyond United States borders.

(D) The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes, uniting the Chickasaw, Choctaw, Cherokee, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations, passed Resolution 12-07, which requests that the United States, after consultation with Native Americans, assist in international repatriation and take immediate action to address repatriation.

SEC. 4. DECLARATION OF CONGRESS.

Congress—

(1) condemns the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items;

(2) calls on the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Attorney General to consult with Native Americans, including traditional Native American religious leaders, in addressing the practices described in paragraph (1)—

(A) to take affirmative action to stop the practices; and

(B) to secure repatriation of tribal cultural items to Native Americans;

(3) calls on the Comptroller General of the United States—

(A) to conduct a study to determine the scope of illegal trafficking in tribal cultural items domestically and internationally; and

(B) to identify, in consultation with Native Americans, including traditional Native American religious leaders, steps required—

(i) to end illegal trafficking in, and the export of, tribal cultural items; and

(ii) to secure repatriation of tribal cultural items to the appropriate Native Americans;

(4) supports the development of explicit restrictions on the export of tribal cultural items; and

(5) encourages State and local governments and interested groups and organizations to work cooperatively in—

(A) deterring the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items; and

(B) securing the repatriation of tribal cultural items to the appropriate Native Americans.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 50—PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. McCONNELL submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 50

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That, in consonance with section 132(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Friday, July 15, 2016, through Friday, September 2, 2016, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6, 2016, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. (a) The Speaker or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the House to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the House adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the House shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4974. Mrs. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5293, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4975. Mr. BURR (for himself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. BLUNT) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2854, to reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007.

SA 4976. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. BURR) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2614, to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, and to promote initiatives that will reduce the risk of injury and death relating to the wandering characteristics of some children with autism.

SA 4977. Mr. RUBIO proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 486, commemorating "Cruise Travel Professional Month" in October 2016.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4974. Mrs. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5293, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act

may be used to procure a Drug Enforcement Administration aircraft that is designated for use in Afghanistan unless—

(1) the Secretary of Defense submits a report to Congress on the use of such aircraft; and

(2) Congress does not adopt a joint resolution of disapproval of the report described in paragraph (1) during the 90-day period beginning on the date on which such report was submitted to Congress.

SA 4975. Mr. BURR (for himself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. BLUNT) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2854, to reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. INVESTIGATION OF UNSOLVED CIVIL RIGHTS CRIMES.

The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007 (28 U.S.C. 509 note) is amended—

(1) in section 2—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

"(3) coordinate the sharing of information between the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the civil rights community, and other entities;

"(4) support the full accounting of all victims whose deaths or disappearances were the result of racially motivated crimes;

"(5) hold accountable under Federal and State law all individuals who were perpetrators of, or accomplices in, unsolved civil rights murders and such disappearances;

"(6) express the condolences of the authority to the communities affected by unsolved civil rights murders, and to the families of the victims of such murders and such disappearances;

"(7) keep families regularly informed about the status of the investigations of such murders and such disappearances of their loved ones; and

"(8) expeditiously comply with requests for information received pursuant to section 552 of title 5, United States Code, (commonly known as the 'Freedom of Information Act') and develop a singular, publicly accessible repository of these disclosed documents.";

(2) in section 3—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking "occurred not later than December 31, 1969, and";

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the period at the end the following: ", and eligible entities"; and

(iii) by adding after paragraph (2) the following:

"(3) REVIEW OF CLOSED CASES.—The Deputy Chief shall, to the extent practicable, reopen and review any case involving a violation described in paragraph (1) that was closed prior to the date of the enactment of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016 without an in-person investigation conducted by an officer or employee of the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice or by an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"(4) TASK FORCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Deputy Chief shall establish a task force that includes representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Community Relations Service of the Department of Justice, State and local law enforcement agencies, and eligible entities to assist, as appropriate, with conducting a thorough investigation of, and to make recommendations to the Deputy Chief regarding, the cases involving violations described in paragraph (1).

“(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts made available to carry out this Act under section 6, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2017 and each subsequent fiscal year to carry out this paragraph.”; and

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking “that occurred not later than December 31, 1969”;

(II) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end;

(III) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(IV) by inserting after subparagraph (G) the following:

“(H) the number of cases referred by an eligible entity or a State or local law enforcement agency or prosecutor to the Department within the study period, the number of such cases that resulted in Federal charges being filed, the date the charges were filed, and if the Department declines to prosecute or participate in an investigation of a case so referred, the fact that it did so, and the outreach, collaboration, and support for investigations and prosecutions of violations of criminal civil rights statutes, including murders and including disappearances described in section 2(4), within Federal, State, and local jurisdictions.”; and

(i) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “and a description of the activities conducted under subsection (b)(3)”;

(3) in section 4(b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “occurred not later than December 31, 1969, and”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and eligible entities”;

(4) in section 5—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “occurred not later than December 31, 1969, and”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2017” and inserting “fiscal year 2017 and each subsequent fiscal year”;

(5) in section 6—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2017” and inserting “fiscal year 2017 and each subsequent fiscal year”; and

(ii) by striking “occurred not later than December 31, 1969, and”; and

(B) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—Using funds appropriated under section 3(b)(4)(B), the Community Relations Service of the Department of Justice shall provide technical assistance by bringing together law enforcement agencies and communities in the investigation of violations described in section 4(b).”;

(6) in section 7—

(A) in the heading, by striking “DEFINITION OF ‘CRIMINAL CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES’” and inserting “DEFINITIONS”;

(B) in paragraph (6), by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting the clauses accordingly;

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (6) as subparagraphs (A) through (F),

respectively, and indenting the subparagraphs accordingly;

(D) by striking “In this Act, the term” and inserting: “In this Act:

“(1) CRIMINAL CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES.—The term”;

and

(E) by inserting at the end the following:

“(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means an organization whose primary purpose is to promote civil rights, an institution of higher education, or another entity, determined by the Attorney General to be appropriate.”; and

(7) by striking section 8.

SA 4976. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. BURR) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2614, to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer’s Disease Patient Alert Program, and to promote initiatives that will reduce the risk of injury and death relating to the wandering characteristics of some children with autism; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Kevin and Avonte’s Law of 2016”.

TITLE I—MISSING ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE PATIENT ALERT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Missing Americans Alert Program Act of 2016”.

SEC. 102. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MISSING ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE PATIENT ALERT PROGRAM.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181) is amended—

(1) in the section header, by striking “ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE PATIENT” and inserting “AMERICANS”; and

(2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) GRANT PROGRAM TO REDUCE INJURY AND DEATH OF MISSING AMERICANS WITH DEMENTIA AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.—Subject to the availability of appropriations to carry out this section, the Attorney General, through the Bureau of Justice Assistance and in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services—

“(1) shall award grants to State and local law enforcement or public safety agencies to assist such agencies in designing, establishing, and operating locative tracking technology programs for individuals with forms of dementia, such as Alzheimer’s Disease, or children with developmental disabilities, such as autism, who have wandered from safe environments; and

“(2) shall award competitive grants to State and local law enforcement or public safety agencies and nonprofit organizations to assist such entities in planning, designing, establishing, or operating locally based, proactive programs to prevent wandering and locate missing individuals with forms of dementia, such as Alzheimer’s Disease, or developmental disabilities, such as autism, who, due to their condition, wander from safe environments, including programs that—

“(A) provide prevention and response information, including online training resources, and referrals to families or guardians of such individuals who, due to their condition, wander from a safe environment;

“(B) provide education and training, including online training resources, to first re-

sponders, school personnel, clinicians, and the public in order to—

“(i) increase personal safety and survival skills for such individuals who, due to their dementia or developmental disabilities, wander from safe environments;

“(ii) facilitate the rescue and recovery of individuals who, due to their dementia or developmental disabilities, wander from safe environments; and

“(iii) recognize and respond to endangered missing individuals with dementia or developmental disabilities who, due to their condition, wander from safe environments;

“(C) provide prevention and response training and emergency protocols for school administrators, staff, and families or guardians of individuals with dementia, such as Alzheimer’s Disease, or developmental disabilities, such as autism, to help reduce the risk of wandering by such individuals; and

“(D) develop, operate, or enhance a notification or communications systems for alerts, advisories, or dissemination of other information for the recovery of missing individuals with forms of dementia, such as Alzheimer’s Disease, or with developmental disabilities, such as autism.”;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting “competitive” after “to receive a”;

(B) by inserting “agency or” before “organization” each place it appears; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“The Attorney General shall periodically solicit applications for grants under this section by publishing a request for applications in the Federal Register and by posting such a request on the website of the Department of Justice.”; and

(4) by striking subsections (c) and (d) and inserting the following:

“(c) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under subsection (a)(1), the Attorney General shall give preference to law enforcement or public safety agencies that partner with nonprofit organizations that have a direct link to individuals, and families of individuals, with forms of dementia, such as Alzheimer’s Disease, or developmental disabilities, such as autism.

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021.

“(e) GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY.—All grants awarded by the Attorney General under this section shall be subject to the following accountability provisions:

“(1) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—

“(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term ‘unresolved audit finding’ means a finding in the final audit report of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice 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.

“(B) AUDITS.—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this subsection, and in each fiscal year thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of grants under this section 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.

“(C) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A recipient of grant funds under this section that is found to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be eligible to receive grant funds under this section during the first 2 fiscal years beginning after the end of the 12-month period described in subparagraph (A).

“(D) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Attorney General shall give

priority to eligible applicants that did not have an unresolved audit finding during the 3 fiscal years before submitting an application for a grant under this section.

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

“(i) deposit an amount equal to the amount of 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 OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—For purposes of this paragraph and the grant programs under this part, 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 grant under this part 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 grant under this section 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 subparagraph available for public inspection.

“(3) CONFERENCE EXPENDITURES.—

“(A) LIMITATION.—No amounts made available to the Department of Justice under this section may be used by the Attorney General, or by any individual or entity awarded discretionary funds through a cooperative agreement under this section, to host or support any expenditure for conferences that uses more than \$20,000 in funds made available by the Department of Justice, unless the head of the relevant agency or department, provides prior written authorization that the funds may be expended to host the 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, beverages, audio-visual equipment, honoraria for speakers, and 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 conference expenditures approved under this paragraph.

“(4) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this subsection, 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—

“(A) indicating whether—

“(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; and

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

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

“(f) PREVENTING DUPLICATIVE GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Before the Attorney General awards a grant to an applicant under this section, the Attorney General shall compare potential grant awards with other grants awarded by the Attorney General to determine if grant awards are or have been awarded for a similar purpose.

“(2) REPORT.—If the Attorney General awards grants to the same applicant for a similar purpose the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

“(A) a list of all such grants awarded, including the total dollar amount of any such grants awarded; and

“(B) the reason the Attorney General awarded multiple grants to the same applicant for a similar purpose.”

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and every year thereafter, 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 a report on the Missing Americans Alert Program, as amended by subsection (a), which shall address—

(1) the number of individuals who benefited from the Missing Americans Alert Program, including information such as the number of individuals who used tracking devices under the program, the number of people who were trained through the program, and the estimated number of people who were impacted by the program;

(2) the number of State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies that applied for funding under the Missing Americans Alert Program;

(3) the number of State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies that received funding under the Missing Americans Alert Program, including—

(A) the number of State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies that used such funding for training; and

(B) the number of State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies that used such funding for designing, establishing, or operating locative tracking technology;

(4) the companies, including the location (city and State) of the headquarters and local offices of each company, for which their locative tracking technology was used by State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies;

(5) the nonprofit organizations, including the location (city and State) of the headquarters and local offices of each organization, that State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies partnered with and the result of each partnership;

(6) the number of missing children with autism or another developmental disability with wandering tendencies or adults with Alzheimer’s being served by the program who went missing and the result of the search for each such individual; and

(7) any recommendations for improving the Missing Americans Alert Program.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in section 2 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 is amended by striking the item relating to section 240001 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 240001. Missing Americans Alert Program.”

TITLE II—EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

SEC. 201. ACTIVITIES BY THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN.

Section 404(b)(1)(H) of the Missing Children’s Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5773(b)(1)(H)) is amended by inserting “, including cases involving children with developmental disabilities such as autism” before the semicolon.

TITLE III—PRIVACY PROTECTIONS

SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) CHILD.—The term “child” means an individual who is less than 18 years of age.

(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given that term in section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)).

(3) LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The term “law enforcement agency” means an agency of a State, unit of local government, or Indian tribe that is authorized by law or by a government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of criminal law.

(4) STATE.—The term “State” means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(5) UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “unit of local government” means a county, municipality, town, township, village, parish, borough, or other unit of general government below the State level.

SEC. 302. STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES FOR USE OF TRACKING DEVICES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and leading research, advocacy, self-advocacy, and service organizations, shall establish standards and best practices relating to the use of tracking technology to locate individuals as described in subsection (a)(2) of section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181), as added by this Act.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In establishing the standards and best practices required under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall—

(A) determine—

(i) the criteria used to determine which individuals would benefit from the use of a tracking device;

(ii) who should have direct access to the tracking system; and

(iii) which types of tracking devices can be used in compliance with the standards and best practices; and

(B) establish standards and best practices the Attorney General determines are necessary to the administration of a tracking system, including procedures to—

(i) safeguard the privacy of the data used by the tracking device such that—

(I) access to the data is restricted to agencies determined necessary by the Attorney General; and

(II) use of the data is solely for the purpose of preventing injury or death;

(ii) establish criteria to determine whether use of the tracking device is the least restrictive alternative in order to prevent risk of injury or death before issuing the tracking

device, including the previous consideration of less restrictive alternatives;

(iii) provide training for law enforcement agencies to recognize signs of abuse during interactions with applicants for tracking devices;

(iv) protect the civil rights and liberties of the individuals who use tracking devices, including their rights under the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

(v) establish a complaint and investigation process to address—

(I) incidents of noncompliance by recipients of grants under subsection (a)(2) of section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181), as added by this Act, with the best practices established by the Attorney General or other applicable law; and

(II) use of a tracking device over the objection of an individual; and

(vi) determine the role that State agencies should have in the administration of a tracking system.

(b) REQUIRED COMPLIANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each entity that receives a grant under subsection (a)(2) of section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181), as added by this Act, shall comply with any standards and best practices relating to the use of tracking devices established by the Attorney General in accordance with subsection (a).

(2) DETERMINATION OF COMPLIANCE.—The Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall determine whether an entity that receives a grant under subsection (a)(2) of section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181), as added by this Act, acts in compliance with the requirement described in paragraph (1).

(c) APPLICABILITY OF STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES.—The standards and best practices established by the Attorney General under subsection (a) shall apply only to the grant programs authorized under subsection (a)(2) of section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181), as added by this Act.

SA 4977. Mr. RUBIO proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 486, commemorating “Cruise Travel Professional Month” in October 2016; as follows:

Strike the first whereas clause.

In the second whereas clause, strike “Cruise Lines International Association supports” and insert “cruise travel professionals support”.

In the second whereas clause, strike “is” and insert “are”.

In the third whereas clause, strike “are members of Cruise Lines International Association and”.

In the seventh whereas clause, strike “Cruise Lines International Association and”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 14, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 14, 2016, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Evaluating the Financial Risks of China.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 14, 2016, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 14, 2016, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “The Iran Nuclear Agreement: One Year Later.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, on July 14, 2016, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “ESSA Implementation: Perspectives from Education Stakeholders on Proposed Regulations.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 14, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 14, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SR-428A of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “Searching for Capital: How Venture Capitalists and Angel Investors Fund Entrepreneurs and Startup Companies.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Stephen Dietz, a fellow in my office, be granted floor

privileges for the duration of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 114-187, and in consultation with the chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and with the chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, appoints the following individuals as members of the Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico: the Honorable ORRIN HATCH of Utah (Finance) and the Honorable MARCO RUBIO of Florida (Energy and Natural Resources).

The Chair announces, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 110-315, the reappointment of the following individual to be a member of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity: Jill Derby of Nevada.

The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 94-201, as amended by Public Law 105-275, reappoints the following individual as a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress: Joanna Hess of New Mexico.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXTRADITION TREATY WITH THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

EXTRADITION TREATY WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following treaties on today’s Executive Calendar: Nos. 11 and 12 en bloc; I further ask unanimous consent that the treaties be considered as having advanced through the various parliamentary stages up to and including the presentation of the resolutions of ratification; that any committee conditions, declarations, or reservations be agreed to as applicable; that any statements be printed in the RECORD; further, that when the resolutions of ratification are voted upon, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that the President be notified of the Senate’s action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The treaties will be stated.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Treaty document No. 114-10, Extradition Treaty with the Dominican Republic.

Treaty document No. 113-6, Extradition Treaty with the Republic of Chile.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask for a division vote on the resolutions of ratification en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A division vote has been requested.

On treaty document Nos. 114–10 and 113–6, Senators in favor of the resolutions of ratification will rise and stand until counted.

Those opposed will rise and stand until counted.

On a division vote, two-thirds of the Senators present having voted in the affirmative, the resolutions of ratification are agreed to en bloc.

The resolutions of ratification are as follows:

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

SECTION 1. SENATE ADVICE AND CONSENT SUBJECT TO A DECLARATION.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Dominican Republic, signed at Santo Domingo on January 12, 2015 (Treaty Doc. 114–10), subject to the declaration of section 2.

SEC. 2. DECLARATION.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Treaty is self-executing.

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

SECTION 1. SENATE ADVICE AND CONSENT SUBJECT TO A DECLARATION.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Chile, signed at Washington on June 5, 2013 (Treaty Doc. 113–6), subject to the declaration of section 2.

SEC. 2. DECLARATION.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Treaty is self-executing.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of Calendar Nos. 209, 472, 679 through 684, and 595; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session without any intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Julius Lloyd Horwich, of Illinois, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Department of Education; Thomas F. Scott Darling, III, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; Ann Hall, of Maine, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Lithuania; Lawrence Robert Silverman of Massachusetts, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Am-

bassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Kuwait; Carol Z. Perez, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Chile; Geoffrey R. Pyatt, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Greece; Douglas Alan Silliman, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Iraq; Marie L. Yovanovitch, of Connecticut, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Ukraine; and Blair Anderson, of California, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Horwich, Darling, Hall, Silverman, Perez, Pyatt, Silliman, Yovanovitch, and Anderson nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2016

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3282, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3282) to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 3282) was passed, as follows:

S. 3282

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 “National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO THE NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM ACT.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1121 et seq.).

SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF DEAN JOHN A. KNAUSS MARINE POLICY FELLOWSHIP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 208(b) (33 U.S.C. 1127(b)) is amended by striking “may” and inserting “shall”.

(b) PLACEMENTS IN CONGRESS.—Such section is further amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”;

(2) in paragraph (1), as designated by paragraph (1), in the second sentence, by striking “A fellowship” and inserting the following:

“(2) PLACEMENT PRIORITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In each year in which the Secretary awards a legislative fellowship under this subsection, when considering the placement of fellows, the Secretary shall prioritize placement of fellows in the following:

“(i) Positions in offices of, or with members on, committees of Congress that have jurisdiction over the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(ii) Positions in offices of members of Congress that have a demonstrated interest in ocean, coastal, or Great Lakes resources.

“(B) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—In placing fellows in offices described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall ensure, to the maximum degree practicable, that placements are equitably distributed among the political parties.

“(3) DURATION.—A fellowship”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (b) shall apply with respect to the first calendar year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS CONCERNING FEDERAL HIRING OF FORMER FELLOWS.—It is the sense of Congress that in recognition of the competitive nature of the fellowship under section 208(b) of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1127(b)), and of the exceptional qualifications of fellowship awardees, the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, should encourage participating Federal agencies to consider opportunities for fellowship awardees at the conclusion of their fellowship for workforce positions appropriate for their education and experience.

SEC. 4. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TO ACCEPT DONATIONS FOR NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 204(c)(4)(E) (33 U.S.C. 1123(c)(4)(E)) is amended to read as follows:

“(E) accept donations of money and, notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, of voluntary and uncompensated services.”.

(b) PRIORITIES.—The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Under Secretary

of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, shall establish priorities for the use of donations accepted under section 204(c)(4)(E) of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1123(c)(4)(E)), and shall consider among those priorities the possibility of expanding the Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship's placement of additional fellows in relevant legislative offices under section 208(b) of that Act (33 U.S.C. 1127(b)), in accordance with the recommendations under subsection (c) of this section.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program, in consultation with the National Sea Grant Advisory Board and the Sea Grant Association, shall—

(1) develop recommendations for the optimal use of any donations accepted under section 204(c)(4)(E) of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1123(c)(4)(E)); and

(2) submit to Congress a report on the recommendations developed under paragraph (1).

(d) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or otherwise affect any other amounts available for marine policy fellowships under section 208(b) of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1127(b)), including amounts—

(1) accepted under section 204(c)(4)(F) of that Act (33 U.S.C. 1123(c)(4)(F)); or

(2) appropriated under section 212 of that Act (33 U.S.C. 1131).

SEC. 5. REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT FOR REPORT ON COORDINATION OF OCEANS AND COASTAL RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.

Section 9 of the National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002 (33 U.S.C. 857–20) is repealed.

SEC. 6. REDUCTION IN FREQUENCY REQUIRED FOR NATIONAL SEA GRANT ADVISORY BOARD REPORT.

Section 209(b)(2) (33 U.S.C. 1128(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “BIENNIAL” and inserting “PERIODIC”; and

(2) in the first sentence, by striking “The Board shall report to the Congress every two years” and inserting “Not less frequently than once every 3 years, the Board shall submit to Congress a report”.

SEC. 7. MODIFICATION OF ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM.

Section 204(b) (33 U.S.C. 1123(b)) is amended, in the matter before paragraph (1), by inserting “for research, education, extension, training, technology transfer, and public service” after “financial assistance”.

SEC. 8. DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY; DEAN JOHN A. KNAUSS MARINE POLICY FELLOWSHIP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—During fiscal year 2016 and thereafter, the head of any Federal agency may appoint, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, other than sections 3303 and 3328 of that title, a qualified candidate described in subsection (b) directly to a position with the Federal agency for which the candidate meets Office of Personnel Management qualification standards.

(b) DEAN JOHN A. KNAUSS MARINE POLICY FELLOWSHIP.—Subsection (a) applies with respect to a former recipient of a Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship under section 208(b) of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1127(b)) who—

(1) earned a graduate or post-graduate degree in a field related to ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources or policy from an accredited institution of higher education; and

(2) successfully fulfilled the requirements of the fellowship within the executive or legislative branch of the United States Government.

(c) LIMITATION.—The direct hire authority under this section shall be exercised with respect to a specific qualified candidate not later than 2 years after the date that the candidate completed the fellowship.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 212(a) (33 U.S.C. 1131(a)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this title—

“(A) \$75,600,000 for fiscal year 2016;

“(B) \$79,380,000 for fiscal year 2017;

“(C) \$83,350,000 for fiscal year 2018;

“(D) \$87,520,000 for fiscal year 2019;

“(E) \$91,900,000 for fiscal year 2020; and

“(F) \$96,500,000 for fiscal year 2021.”; and

(2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) PRIORITY ACTIVITIES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2016 THROUGH 2021.—In addition to the amounts authorized under paragraph (1), there is authorized to be appropriated \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021 for competitive grants for the following:

“(A) University research on the biology, prevention, and control of aquatic nonnative species.

“(B) University research on oyster diseases, oyster restoration, and oyster-related human health risks.

“(C) University research on the biology, prevention, and forecasting of harmful algal blooms.

“(D) University research, education, training, and extension services and activities focused on coastal resilience and U.S. working waterfronts and other regional or national priority issues identified in the strategic plan under section 204(c)(1).

“(E) University research on sustainable aquaculture techniques and technologies.

“(F) Fishery extension activities conducted by sea grant colleges or sea grant institutes to enhance, and not supplant, existing core program funding.”.

(b) MODIFICATION OF LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNTS FOR ADMINISTRATION.—Paragraph (1) of section 212(b) (33 U.S.C. 1131(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) ADMINISTRATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—There may not be used for administration of programs under this title in a fiscal year more than 5.5 percent of the lesser of—

“(i) the amount authorized to be appropriated under this title for the fiscal year; or

“(ii) the amount appropriated under this title for the fiscal year.

“(B) CRITICAL STAFFING REQUIREMENTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall use the authority under subchapter VI of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, to meet any critical staffing requirement while carrying out the activities authorized in this title.

“(ii) EXCEPTION FROM CAP.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), any costs incurred as a result of an exercise of authority as described in clause (i) shall not be considered an amount used for administration of programs under this title in a fiscal year.”.

(c) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 204(d)(3) (33 U.S.C. 1123(d)(3)) is amended—

(A) in the matter before subparagraph (A), by striking “With respect to sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes” and inserting “With respect to sea grant colleges, sea grant institutes, sea grant programs, and sea grant projects”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), in the matter before clause (i), by striking “funding among sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes” and inserting “funding among sea grant col-

leges, sea grant institutes, sea grant programs, and sea grant projects”.

(2) REPEAL OF REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING DISTRIBUTION OF EXCESS AMOUNTS.—Section 212 (33 U.S.C. 1131) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (c); and

(B) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively.

SEC. 10. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

The National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1121 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 204(d)(3)(B) (33 U.S.C. 1123(d)(3)(B)), by moving clause (vi) two ems to the right; and

(2) in section 209(b)(2) (33 U.S.C. 1128(b)(2)), as amended by section 6, in the third sentence, by striking “The Secretary shall” and inserting the following:

“(3) AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES OF DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.—The Secretary shall”.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EMMETT TILL UNSOLVED CIVIL RIGHTS CRIMES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2016

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 2854 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2854) to reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today to applaud the Senate's passage of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act, bipartisan legislation that I introduced in April with Congressman JOHN LEWIS. We were joined in this effort by Senators LEAHY, McCASKILL and BLUNT, as well as Representative JIM SENSENBRENNER.

The goal of this legislation is simple and noble: to bring truth to light and bring justice to the victims of racially motivated murders.

The original bill was championed by Representative LEWIS and civil rights activist and cold case researcher Alvin Sykes in 2007, and it aimed to ensure that those who had quite literally gotten away with murder during the civil rights era were prosecuted under the law.

And recognizing that while many of these civil rights era cases can't be prosecuted due to legal challenges, the investigation of these cold cases is important to revealing the truth about the injustices committed against African-Americans and the failure of the legal system to protect them. Uncovering and confronting this dark part of our nation's history is invaluable to strengthening our rule of law.

Mr. President, it was important to pass this bill today because on August 28—a day that will arrive during the Congressional recess—the Till family and others in the civil rights community will remember the murder of Emmett Till. As my colleagues know, Emmett Till was a 14-year-old-boy from Chicago who was brutally murdered in Mississippi in 1955 after whistling at a white woman.

The two individuals who were charged with the murder of Emmett Till were tried. But after only a 67-minute deliberation of the jury, the two men were acquitted of capital murder. Both men later confessed to the murder to a reporter, but under our Constitution, these individuals could not be retried.

Had Emmett Till not been murdered, his family would have been celebrating his 75th birthday this month instead of remembering his death next month.

The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., once said that “the time is always right to do what is right.” We can’t bring Emmett Till back, but we can honor his legacy and do what is right by uncovering these unimaginable wrongs.

Under the original Emmett Till Act, the Department of Justice and FBI have investigated 105 of 113 cold cases involving 126 victims. There has been one successful prosecution at the State level since the passage of this law, in which a former police officer plead guilty for manslaughter in the death of a civil rights activist.

Yet there is growing evidence gathered by activists, lawyers, and researchers that more unsolved murders exist, and the mandate of the original law is not yet complete. For example, in 2012, the Cold Case Justice Initiative at Syracuse University submitted 196 names of victims of racially suspicious cases to the DOJ that warrant review. To my knowledge, these names have not been investigated.

The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Right Crimes Reauthorization Act would enable the Department of Justice and FBI to carry on the critical mission of investigating unsolved murders, and when possible, securing justice through our legal system.

It would enable them to investigate a broader time span of crimes than the original bill, recognizing that racially motivated violence did not end in 1969.

And it would provide for increased collaboration among the federal government, State and local officials, and cold case researchers, to ensure a full array of resources are dedicated to this end.

Many of these crimes may not be able to be prosecuted due to statutes of limitations, the death of witnesses, or other legal issues. But even if these investigations do not lead to prosecutions, giving these families the real truth about what happened to their loved ones is not only important to them as they cope with their grief, it is also important for understanding our

history, ensuring the rule of law, and sending the message to future generations that every single American is worthy of the protections of our laws.

In Letter from Birmingham Jail, Dr. King wrote that “justice too long delayed is justice denied.” For many victims, full justice will never be realized because justice has been delayed too long. It is the purpose of this bill to ensure that justice is not delayed any longer, and it is my hope that the House of Representatives will soon pass this bill and the President will sign it into law.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Burr substitute amendment be agreed to, and the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4975) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. INVESTIGATION OF UNSOLVED CIVIL RIGHTS CRIMES.

The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007 (28 U.S.C. 509 note) is amended—

(1) in section 2—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) coordinate the sharing of information between the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the civil rights community, and other entities;

“(4) support the full accounting of all victims whose deaths or disappearances were the result of racially motivated crimes;

“(5) hold accountable under Federal and State law all individuals who were perpetrators of, or accomplices in, unsolved civil rights murders and such disappearances;

“(6) express the condolences of the authority to the communities affected by unsolved civil rights murders, and to the families of the victims of such murders and such disappearances;

“(7) keep families regularly informed about the status of the investigations of such murders and such disappearances of their loved ones; and

“(8) expeditiously comply with requests for information received pursuant to section 552 of title 5, United States Code, (commonly known as the ‘Freedom of Information Act’) and develop a singular, publicly accessible repository of these disclosed documents.”;

(2) in section 3—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “occurred not later than December 31, 1969, and”;

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and eligible entities”;

(iii) by adding after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) REVIEW OF CLOSED CASES.—The Deputy Chief shall, to the extent practicable, reopen

and review any case involving a violation described in paragraph (1) that was closed prior to the date of the enactment of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016 without an in-person investigation conducted by an officer or employee of the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice or by an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

“(4) TASK FORCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Deputy Chief shall establish a task force that includes representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Community Relations Service of the Department of Justice, State and local law enforcement agencies, and eligible entities to assist, as appropriate, with conducting a thorough investigation of, and to make recommendations to the Deputy Chief regarding, the cases involving violations described in paragraph (1).

“(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts made available to carry out this Act under section 6, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2017 and each subsequent fiscal year to carry out this paragraph.”; and

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking “that occurred not later than December 31, 1969”;

(II) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end;

(III) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(IV) by inserting after subparagraph (G) the following:

“(H) the number of cases referred by an eligible entity or a State or local law enforcement agency or prosecutor to the Department within the study period, the number of such cases that resulted in Federal charges being filed, the date the charges were filed, and if the Department declines to prosecute or participate in an investigation of a case so referred, the fact that it did so, and the outreach, collaboration, and support for investigations and prosecutions of violations of criminal civil rights statutes, including murders and including disappearances described in section 2(4), within Federal, State, and local jurisdictions.”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “and a description of the activities conducted under subsection (b)(3)”;

(3) in section 4(b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “occurred not later than December 31, 1969, and”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and eligible entities”;

(4) in section 5—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “occurred not later than December 31, 1969, and”;

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2017” and inserting “fiscal year 2017 and each subsequent fiscal year”;

(5) in section 6—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2017” and inserting “fiscal year 2017 and each subsequent fiscal year”;

(ii) by striking “occurred not later than December 31, 1969, and”;

(B) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—Using funds appropriated under section 3(b)(4)(B), the Community Relations Service of the Department of Justice shall provide technical assistance by bringing together law enforcement agencies and communities in the investigation of violations described in section 4(b).”;

(6) in section 7—

(A) in the heading, by striking “**DEFINITION OF ‘CRIMINAL CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES’**” and inserting “**DEFINITIONS**”;

(B) in paragraph (6), by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting the clauses accordingly;

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (6) as subparagraphs (A) through (F), respectively, and indenting the subparagraphs accordingly;

(D) by striking “In this Act, the term” and inserting: “In this Act:

“(1) **CRIMINAL CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES**.—The term”;

(E) by inserting at the end the following: “(2) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY**.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means an organization whose primary purpose is to promote civil rights, an institution of higher education, or another entity, determined by the Attorney General to be appropriate.”; and

(7) by striking section 8.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 2854), as amended, was passed.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

KEVIN AND AVONTE’S LAW OF 2016

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 423, S. 2614.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2614) to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer’s Disease Patient Alert Program, and to promote initiatives that will reduce the risk of injury and death relating to the wandering characteristics of some children with autism.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Grassley-Schumer substitute amendment be agreed to, and the bill, as amended, be read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4976) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today’s RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Ms. MURKOWSKI: I know of no further debate on this measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 2614), as amended, was passed.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PFC JAMES DUNN VA CLINIC

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3283, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3283) to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Pueblo, Colorado, as the “PFC James Dunn VA Clinic.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 3283) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3283

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF PFC JAMES DUNN VA CLINIC IN PUEBLO, COLORADO.

(a) **DESIGNATION**.—The community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Pueblo, Colorado, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “PFC James Dunn VA Clinic”.

(b) **REFERENCES**.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the community-based outpatient clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the PFC James Dunn VA Clinic.

HOUSING OPPORTUNITY THROUGH MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2016

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3700 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3700) to provide housing opportunities in the United States through modernization of various housing programs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the

motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3700) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTENNIAL COMMISSION ACT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of H.R. 5722, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5722) to establish the John F. Kennedy Centennial Commission.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5722) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

COMMEMORATING “CRUISE TRAVEL PROFESSIONAL MONTH” IN OCTOBER 2016

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 486.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 486) commemorating “Cruise Travel Professional Month” in October 2016.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the Rubio amendment to the preamble be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 486) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 4977) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

Strike the first whereas clause.

In the second whereas clause, strike “Cruise Lines International Association supporters” and insert “cruise travel professionals support”.

In the second whereas clause, strike “is” and insert “are”.

In the third whereas clause, strike “are members of Cruise Lines International Association and”.

In the seventh whereas clause, strike “Cruise Lines International Association and”.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 486

Whereas cruise travel professionals support policies and practices that foster a safe, secure, healthy, and sustainable cruise ship environment and are dedicated to promoting the cruise travel experience;

Whereas approximately 10,000 travel agencies and 19,000 individual cruise travel professionals participate in ongoing professional development and training programs to build cruise industry knowledge;

Whereas cruise travel professionals deliver value to consumers by providing advice on choosing the best cruise based on the budgets and interests of the customers and taking the worry out of vacation planning by arranging the details of vacations;

Whereas cruise passengers have consistently ranked cruise travel professionals as the most helpful sources of information and service among all distribution channels used for purchasing cruises;

Whereas 70 percent of cruise passengers from the United States use a cruise travel professional to plan and book a cruise vacation;

Whereas cruise travel professionals across the world celebrate and promote October as “Plan a Cruise Month”;

Whereas the United States has the most cruise passengers in the world, with almost 11,500,000 cruise passengers in 2014;

Whereas the cruise industry in the United States generated 375,000 jobs across all 50 States in 2014; and

Whereas, in 2014, the cruise industry spent \$21,000,000,000 directly with United States businesses and generated \$46,000,000,000 in gross outputs due to the spending of cruise lines and the crew and passengers of cruise lines, including indirect economic impacts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the inaugural “Cruise Travel Professional Month” in October 2016;

(2) acknowledges the creativity and professionalism of the men and women of the cruise travel professional community; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe “Cruise Travel Professional Month” with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

WELCOMING PRIME MINISTER LEE HSIEN-LOONG TO THE UNITED STATES

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 565, S. Res. 515.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 515) welcoming Prime Minister Lee Hsien-Loong to the United States and reaffirming Singapore’s strategic partnership with the United States, encompassing broad and robust economic, military-to-military, law enforcement, and counterterrorism cooperation.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 515) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of June 29, 2016, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE PESHMERGA OF THE KURDISTAN REGION OF IRAQ

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 566, S. Con. Res. 41.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 41) expressing the sense of Congress on the Peshmerga of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations with amendments, as follows:

(The parts of the concurrent resolution intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the concurrent resolution intended to be inserted are shown in italic.)

S. CON. RES. 41

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Peshmerga of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq have been one of the most effective fighting forces in the military campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS);

(2) the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham poses an acute threat to the Iraqi people and territorial integrity of Iraq, including the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, and the security and stability of the Middle East;

(3) the severe budget shortfalls faced by both the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government are hindering the stability of Iraq and have the potential to undermine long-term efforts to bring about the sustainable defeat of the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham;

(4) the \$415,000,000 pledged by the United States Government to the Kurdish Peshmerga in April of 2016, in coordination with the Government of Iraq, in addition to the \$65,000,000 already provided from the Iraq Train and Equip Fund, should remain a priority for the United States as part of the continued support for Iraqi Security Forces, including the Peshmerga, in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham;

[(5) the Peshmerga should receive all weapons and equipment that the United States, in coordination with the Government of Iraq, agrees to provide in an expeditious and in a timely manner;]

(5) the Peshmerga should receive all weapons and equipment that the United States, by, with, and through the Government of Iraq, agrees to

provide in an expeditious and in a timely manner;

(6) it should be the policy of the United States to support, within the framework of the Iraq Constitution, Iraqi Security Forces, the Kurdish Peshmerga in Iraq, Sunni tribal forces, and other local security forces, including threatened ethnic and religious minority groups, in the campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham;

(7) ensuring the safe resettlement and reintegration of ethnic and religious minorities, including Christians (among them Assyrian, Chaldean, Syriac, Armenian, Evangelical, Antiochian and Greek Orthodox, Maronite, Melkite, and Roman Catholic communities), Yezidis, Turkmen, Shi’a, Shabak, Sabaeen-Mandeans, and Kaka’i, among others, including victims of genocide, into their homelands in Iraq, including the Ninevah Plain, is a critical component toward achieving a safe, secure, and sovereign Iraq;

[(6)] (8) the Peshmerga require equipment that will allow them to defend themselves and their coalition advisers against the increased use of vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices by the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham;

[(7)] (9) the Peshmerga are vital partners in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham; and

[(8)] (10) in coordination with the Government of Iraq, the United States will endeavor to increase assistance to Iraqi Kurdish Forces to enhance their combat medicine and logistical capabilities, to defend internally displaced persons and refugees, and to defend the Peshmerga and their coalition advisers.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendments be agreed to, the concurrent resolution, as amended, be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendments were agreed to.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 41), as amended, was agreed to, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 41

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Peshmerga of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq have been one of the most effective fighting forces in the military campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS);

(2) the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham poses an acute threat to the Iraqi people and territorial integrity of Iraq, including the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, and the security and stability of the Middle East;

(3) the severe budget shortfalls faced by both the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government are hindering the stability of Iraq and have the potential to undermine long-term efforts to bring about the sustainable defeat of the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham;

(4) the \$415,000,000 pledged by the United States Government to the Kurdish Peshmerga in April of 2016, in coordination with the Government of Iraq, in addition to the \$65,000,000 already provided from the Iraq Train and Equip Fund, should remain a priority for the United States as part of the continued support for Iraqi Security Forces, including the Peshmerga, in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham;

(5) the Peshmerga should receive all weapons and equipment that the United States, by, with, and through the Government of Iraq, agrees to provide in an expeditious and in a timely manner;

(6) it should be the policy of the United States to support, within the framework of the Iraq Constitution, Iraqi Security Forces, the Kurdish Peshmerga in Iraq, Sunni tribal forces, and other local security forces, including threatened ethnic and religious minority groups, in the campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham;

(7) ensuring the safe resettlement and reintegration of ethnic and religious minorities, including Christians (among them Assyrian, Chaldean, Syriac, Armenian, Evangelical, Antiochian and Greek Orthodox, Maronite, Melkite, and Roman Catholic communities), Yezidis, Turkmen, Shi'a, Shabak, Sabaeen-Mandeans, and Kaka'i, among others, including victims of genocide, into their homelands in Iraq, including the Ninevah Plain, is a critical component toward achieving a safe, secure, and sovereign Iraq;

(8) the Peshmerga require equipment that will allow them to defend themselves and their coalition advisers against the increased use of vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices by the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham;

(9) the Peshmerga are vital partners in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham; and

(10) in coordination with the Government of Iraq, the United States will endeavor to increase assistance to Iraqi Kurdish Forces to enhance their combat medicine and logistical capabilities, to defend internally displaced persons and refugees, and to defend the Peshmerga and their coalition advisers.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOAL OF ENSURING THAT ALL HOLOCAUST VICTIMS LIVE WITH DIGNITY, COMFORT, AND SECURITY IN THEIR REMAINING YEARS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 568, S. Con. Res. 46.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 46) expressing support for the goal of ensuring that all Holocaust victims live with dignity, comfort, and security in their remaining years, and urging the Federal Republic of Germany to continue to reaffirm its commitment to comprehensively address the unique health and welfare needs of vulnerable Holocaust victims, including home care and other medically prescribed needs.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 46) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of July 12, 2016, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

SUPPORTING THE BID OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, TO BRING THE 2024 SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES BACK TO THE UNITED STATES

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 142, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 142) supporting the bid of Los Angeles, California, to bring the 2024 Summer Olympic Games back to the United States and pledging the cooperation of Congress with respect to that bid.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 142) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

INDIAN EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND RELATED SERVICES CONSOLIDATION ACT OF 2015

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 385, S. 1443.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1443) to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I know of no further debate on this measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 1443) was passed, as follows:

S. 1443

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 "Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT OF SHORT TITLE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3401 note; 106 Stat. 2302) is amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

"This Act may be cited as the 'Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992'."

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in law to the "Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992" shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992".

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

Section 2 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3401) is amended—

(1) by striking "The purposes of this Act are to demonstrate how Indian tribal governments can" and inserting "The purpose of this Act is to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes and tribal organizations to";

(2) by inserting "from diverse Federal sources" after "they provide";

(3) by striking "and serve tribally-determined" and inserting ", and serve tribally determined"; and

(4) by inserting ", while reducing administrative, reporting, and accounting costs" after "policy of self-determination".

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

Section 3 of the Indian Employment, Training, and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3402) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

"(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The terms 'Indian tribe' and 'tribe' have the meaning given the term 'Indian tribe' in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

"(B) INCLUSION.—The term 'Indian tribe' includes tribal organizations (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)).";

(2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

"(4) PROGRAM.—The term 'program' means a program described in section 5(a)."

SEC. 5. INTEGRATION OF SERVICES AUTHORIZED.

Section 4 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3403) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4. INTEGRATION OF SERVICES AUTHORIZED.

"The Secretary shall, after approving a plan submitted by an Indian tribe in accordance with section 8, authorize the Indian tribe to, in accordance with the plan—

"(1) integrate the programs and Federal funds received by the Indian tribe; and

"(2) coordinate the employment, training, and related services provided with those funds in a consolidated and comprehensive tribal plan."

SEC. 6. PROGRAMS AFFECTED AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS.

Section 5 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3404) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5. PROGRAMS AFFECTED.

“(a) PROGRAMS AFFECTED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The programs that may be integrated pursuant to a plan approved under section 8 shall be only programs—

“(A) implemented for the purpose of—

“(i) job training;

“(ii) welfare to work and tribal work experience;

“(iii) creating or enhancing employment opportunities;

“(iv) higher education;

“(v) skill development;

“(vi) assisting Indian youth and adults to succeed in the workforce;

“(vii) encouraging self-sufficiency;

“(viii) familiarizing individual participants with the world of work;

“(ix) facilitating the creation of job opportunities;

“(x) economic development; or

“(xi) any services related to the activities described in clauses (i) through (x); and

“(B) under which an Indian tribe or members of an Indian tribe—

“(i) are eligible to receive funds—

“(I) under a statutory or administrative formula making funds available to an Indian tribe; or

“(II) due to their status as Indians under Federal law; or

“(ii) have secured funds as a result of a competitive process, a noncompetitive process, or a specific designation.

“(2) TREATMENT OF BLOCK GRANT FUNDS.—For purposes of this section, programs funded by block grant funds provided to an Indian tribe, regardless of whether the block grant is for the benefit of the Indian tribe because of the status of the Indian tribe or the status of the beneficiaries the grant serves, shall be eligible to be integrated into the plan.

“(b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary shall, in cooperation with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, after the Secretary approves a plan submitted by an Indian tribe or tribal organization under section 8, authorize the Indian tribe or tribal organization, as applicable, to coordinate, in accordance with the plan, federally funded employment, training, and related services programs and funding in a manner that integrates the programs and funding into a consolidated and comprehensive program.”

SEC. 7. PLAN REQUIREMENTS.

Section 6 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3405) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 6. PLAN REQUIREMENTS.

“A plan submitted to the Secretary for approval under this Act shall—

“(1) identify the programs to be integrated and consolidated;

“(2) be consistent with the purposes of this Act;

“(3) describe—

“(A) a comprehensive strategy identifying the full range of potential employment opportunities on and near the service area of the Indian tribe;

“(B) the education, training, and related services to be provided to assist Indians to access those employment opportunities;

“(C) the way in which services and program funds are to be integrated, consolidated, and delivered; and

“(D) the results expected from the plan;

“(4) identify the projected expenditures under the plan in a single budget covering all consolidated funds;

“(5) identify any agency of the Indian tribe to be involved in the delivery of the services integrated under the plan;

“(6) identify any statutory provisions, regulations, policies, or procedures that the Indian tribe believes need to be waived to implement the plan; and

“(7) be approved by the governing body of the Indian tribe.”

SEC. 8. PLAN REVIEW; WAIVER AUTHORITY; AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION.

Section 7 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3406) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon receipt of a plan from an Indian tribe, the Secretary shall consult with—

“(1) the head of each Federal agency overseeing a program identified in the plan; and

“(2) the Indian tribe that submitted the plan.

“(b) IDENTIFICATION OF WAIVERS.—The parties identified in subsection (a) shall identify any waivers of applicable statutory, regulatory, or administrative requirements, or of Federal agency policies or procedures necessary to enable the Indian tribe to efficiently implement the plan.

“(c) TRIBAL WAIVER REQUEST.—In consultation with the Secretary, a participating Indian tribe may request that the head of each affected agency waive any statutory, regulatory, or administrative requirement, policy, or procedure identified subsection (b).

“(d) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), notwithstanding any other provision of law, the head of each affected Federal agency shall waive any applicable statutory, regulatory, or administrative requirement, regulation, policy, or procedure promulgated by the agency that has been identified by the parties under subparagraph (b).

“(2) EXCEPTION.—The head of an affected Federal agency shall not grant a waiver under paragraph (1) if the head of the affected agency determines that a waiver will be inconsistent with—

“(A) the purposes of this Act; or

“(B) the provision of law from which the program included in the plan derives its authority that is specifically applicable to Indians.

“(e) DECISION ON WAIVER REQUEST.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the head of an affected agency receives a waiver request, the head of the affected agency shall decide whether to grant or deny the request.

“(2) DENIAL OF REQUEST.—If the head of the affected agency denies a waiver request, not later than 30 days after the date on which the denial is made, the head of the affected agency shall provide the requesting Indian tribe and the Secretary with written notice of the denial and the reasons for the denial.

“(3) FAILURE TO ACT ON REQUEST.—If the head of an affected agency does not make a decision under paragraph (1) by the deadline identified in that paragraph, the request shall be considered to be granted.

“(f) SECRETARIAL REVIEW.—If the head of an affected agency denies a waiver request under subsection (e)(2), not later than 30 days after the date on which the request is denied, the Secretary shall review the denial and determine whether granting the waiver—

“(1) will be inconsistent with the provisions of this Act; or

“(2) will prevent the affected agency from fulfilling the obligations of the affected agency under this Act.

“(g) INTERAGENCY DISPUTE RESOLUTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary determines that granting the waiver will not be inconsistent with the provisions of this Act and will not prevent the affected agency from fulfilling the obligations of the affected agency under this Act, the Secretary shall establish and initiate an interagency dispute resolution process involving—

“(A) the Secretary;

“(B) the participating Indian tribe; and

“(C) the head of the affected agency.

“(2) DURATION.—A dispute subject to paragraph (1) shall be resolved not later than 30 days after the date on which the process is initiated.

“(h) FINAL AUTHORITY.—If the dispute resolution process fails to resolve the dispute between a participating Indian tribe and an affected agency, the head of the affected agency shall have the final authority to resolve the dispute.

“(i) FINAL DECISION.—Not later than 10 days after the date on which the dispute is resolved under this section, the Secretary shall provide the requesting Indian tribe with—

“(1) the final decision on the waiver request; and

“(2) notice of the right to file an appeal in accordance with the applicable provisions described in section 8(d).”

SEC. 9. PLAN APPROVAL; SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY; REVIEW OF DECISION.

Section 8 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3407) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 8. PLAN APPROVAL; SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY; REVIEW OF DECISION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall have exclusive authority to approve or disapprove a plan submitted by an Indian tribe in accordance with section 6.

“(b) APPROVAL PROCESS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a plan, the Secretary shall approve or deny the plan.

“(2) APPROVAL.—If the Secretary approves a plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall authorize the transfer of program funds identified in the plan in accordance with section 13.

“(3) DENIAL.—If the Secretary denies the plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide to the Indian tribe a written notification of disapproval of the plan that contains a specific finding that clearly demonstrates, or that is supported by a controlling legal authority, that the plan does not meet the requirements described in section 6.

“(4) PARTIAL APPROVAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If a plan is denied under paragraph (3) solely on the basis that a request for a waiver that is part of the plan has not been approved (or is subject to dispute resolution) under section 7, the Secretary shall, upon a request from the tribe, grant partial approval for those portions of the plan not affected by the request for a waiver.

“(B) APPROVAL AFTER RESOLUTION.—With respect to a plan described in subparagraph (A), on resolution of the request for a waiver under section 7, the Secretary shall, on a request from the tribe, approve the plan or amended plan not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary receives the request.

“(5) FAILURE TO ACT.—If the Secretary does not make a decision under paragraph (1) within 90 days of the date on which the Secretary receives the plan, the plan shall be considered to be approved.

“(c) EXTENSION OF TIME.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may extend or otherwise alter the 90-day period identified in subsection (b)(1) for not

more than 90 additional days, if, before the expiration of the period, the Secretary obtains the express written consent of the Indian tribe.

“(d) REVIEW OF DENIAL.—

“(1) PROCEDURE UPON REFUSAL TO APPROVE PLAN.—If the Secretary denies a plan under subsection (b)(3), the Secretary shall—

“(A) state any objections in writing to the Indian tribe;

“(B) provide assistance to the Indian tribe to overcome the stated objections; and

“(C) unless the Indian tribe brings a civil action under paragraph (2), provide the Indian tribe with a hearing on the record with the right to engage in full discovery relevant to any issue raised in the matter and the opportunity for appeal on the objections raised, under such rules and regulations as the Secretary may promulgate.

“(2) CIVIL ACTIONS; CONCURRENT JURISDICTION; RELIEF.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The district courts of the United States shall have original jurisdiction of a civil action or claim against the appropriate Secretary arising under this section and over any civil action or claim against the Secretary for money damages arising under contracts authorized by this section.

“(B) ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING AND APPEAL NOT REQUIRED.—An Indian tribe may bring a civil action or claim under this paragraph without regard to whether the Indian tribe had a hearing or filed an appeal under paragraph (1).

“(C) RELIEF.—In an action brought under this paragraph, the court may order appropriate relief, including—

“(i) money damages;

“(ii) injunctive relief against any action by an officer or employee of the United States or any agency thereof contrary to this Act or regulations promulgated thereunder (including immediate injunctive relief to reverse a denial of a plan under this section or to compel the Secretary to approve a plan); and

“(iii) a writ of mandamus to compel an officer or employee of the United States, or any agency thereof, to perform a duty provided under this Act or regulations promulgated hereunder.

“(3) BURDEN OF PROOF AT HEARING OR APPEAL DECLINING CONTRACT; FINAL AGENCY ACTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any hearing or appeal conducted under paragraph (1)(C) or any civil action brought under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall have the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence the validity of the grounds for denying approval of a plan (or portion thereof).

“(B) AGENCY ACTION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a decision by an official of the Department of the Interior or the Department of Health and Human Services, as appropriate (collectively referred to in this paragraph as the ‘Department’) that constitutes final agency action and that relates to an appeal within the Department that is conducted under paragraph (1)(C) shall be made—

“(i) by an official of the Department who holds a position at a higher organizational level within the Department than the level of the departmental agency (such as the Indian Health Service or the Bureau of Indian Affairs) in which the decision that is the subject of the appeal was made; or

“(ii) by an administrative judge.

“(4) APPLICATION OF LAWS TO ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS.—Section 504 of title 5, United States Code, and section 2412 of title 28, United States Code, shall apply to any administrative appeals pending on or filed after October 5, 1988, by an Indian tribe regarding a plan under this Act.”.

SEC. 10. EMPLOYER TRAINING PLACEMENTS.

Section 10 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3409) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 10. EMPLOYER TRAINING PLACEMENTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), an Indian tribe that has in place an approved plan under this Act may use the funds made available for the plan under this Act—

“(1) to place participants in training positions with employers; and

“(2) to pay the participants a training allowance or wage for a training period of not more than 24 months, which may be non-consecutive.

“(b) REQUIREMENTS.—An Indian tribe may carry out subsection (a) only if the Indian tribe enters into a written agreement with each applicable employer under which the employer shall agree—

“(1) to provide on-the-job training to the participants; and

“(2) on satisfactory completion of the training period described in subsection (a)(2), to prioritize the provision of permanent employment to the participants.”.

SEC. 11. FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

Section 11 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3410) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 11. FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

“(a) LEAD AGENCY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the lead agency responsible for implementation of this Act shall be the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

“(2) INCLUSIONS.—The responsibilities of the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in carrying out this Act shall include—

“(A) the development of a single model report for each Indian tribe that has in place an approved plan under this Act to submit to the Director reports on any consolidated activities undertaken and joint expenditures made under the plan;

“(B) the provision, directly or through contract, of appropriate voluntary and technical assistance to participating Indian tribes;

“(C) the development and use of a single monitoring and oversight system for plans approved under this Act;

“(D)(i) the receipt of all funds covered by a plan approved under this Act; and

“(ii) the distribution of the funds to the respective Indian tribes by not later than 45 days after the date of receipt of the funds from the appropriate Federal department or agency; and

“(E)(i) the performance of activities described in section 7 relating to agency waivers; and

“(ii) the establishment of an interagency dispute resolution process.

“(3) MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2014, the Secretary (acting through the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs), in conjunction with the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs and the Attorney General, shall enter into an interdepartmental memorandum of agreement providing for the implementation of this Act.

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—The memorandum of agreement under subparagraph (A) shall include provisions relating to—

“(i) an annual meeting of participating Indian tribes and Federal departments and agencies, to be co-chaired by—

“(I) a representative of the President; and

“(II) a representative of the participating Indian tribes;

“(ii) an annual review of the achievements under this Act and any statutory, regulatory, administrative, or policy obstacles that prevent participating Indian tribes from fully and efficiently carrying out the purposes of this Act; and

“(iii) a forum comprised of participating Indian tribes and Federal departments and agencies to identify and resolve interagency conflicts and conflicts between the Federal Government and Indian tribes in the administration of this Act.

“(b) REPORT FORMAT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The lead agency shall develop and distribute to Indian tribes that have in place an approved plan under this Act a single report format, in accordance with the requirements of this Act.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The lead agency shall ensure that the report format developed under paragraph (1), together with records maintained by each participating Indian tribe, contains information sufficient—

“(A) to determine whether the Indian tribe has complied with the requirements of the approved plan of the Indian tribe; and

“(B) to provide assurances to the head of each applicable Federal department or agency that the Indian tribe has complied with all directly applicable statutory and regulatory requirements not waived under section 7.

“(3) LIMITATION.—The report format developed under paragraph (1) shall not require a participating Indian tribe to report on the expenditure of funds (expressed by fund source or single agency code) transferred to the Indian tribe under an approved plan under this Act.”.

SEC. 12. NO REDUCTION IN AMOUNTS.

Section 12 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3411) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 12. NO REDUCTION IN AMOUNTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In no case shall the amount of Federal funds available to an Indian tribe that has in place an approved plan under this Act be reduced as a result of—

“(1) the enactment of this Act; or

“(2) the approval or implementation of a plan of an Indian tribe under this Act.

“(b) INTERACTION WITH OTHER LAWS.—The inclusion of a program in a tribal plan under this Act shall not—

“(1) modify, limit, or otherwise affect the eligibility of the program for contracting under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.); or

“(2) eliminate the applicability of any provision of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.), as the provision relates to a specific program eligible for contracting under that Act.”.

SEC. 13. TRANSFER OF FUNDS.

Section 13 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3412) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 13. TRANSFER OF FUNDS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than 30 days after the date of apportionment to the applicable Federal department or agency, the head of a Federal agency overseeing a program identified in a plan approved under this Act shall transfer to the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs for distribution to an Indian tribe any funds identified in the approved plan of the Indian tribe.

“(b) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, at the request of the Indian tribe, all program funds transferred to an Indian tribe in accordance with the approved plan of the Indian tribe shall be transferred to the Indian tribe pursuant to an existing contract, compact, or

funding agreement awarded pursuant to title I or IV of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.).”

SEC. 14. ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS.

Section 14 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3413) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (d);

(2) by striking the section designation and heading and all that follows through subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“SEC. 14. ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS.

“(a) REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) CONSOLIDATION AND REALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all amounts transferred to a tribe pursuant to an approved plan may be consolidated, reallocated, and rebudgeted as specified in the approved plan to best meet the employment, training, and related needs of the local community served by the Indian tribe.

“(B) AUTHORIZED USE OF FUNDS.—The amounts used to carry out a plan approved under this Act shall be administered in such manner as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to ensure the amounts are spent on activities authorized under the approved plan.

“(C) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section interferes with the ability of the Secretary or the lead agency to use accounting procedures that conform to generally accepted accounting principles, auditing procedures, and safeguarding of funds that conform to chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Single Audit Act of 1984’).

“(2) SEPARATE RECORDS AND AUDITS NOT REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations and circulars of any agency (including Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133)), an Indian tribe that has in place an approved plan under this Act shall not be required—

“(A) to maintain separate records that trace any service or activity conducted under the approved plan to the program for which the funds were initially authorized or transferred;

“(B) to allocate expenditures among such a program; or

“(C) to audit expenditures by the original source of the program.

“(b) CARRYOVER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any funds transferred to an Indian tribe under this Act that are not obligated or expended prior to the beginning of the fiscal year after the fiscal year for which the funds were appropriated shall remain available for obligation or expenditure without fiscal year limitation, subject to the condition that the funds shall be obligated or expended in accordance with the approved plan of the Indian tribe.

“(2) NO ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION.—The Indian tribe shall not be required to provide any additional justification or documentation of the purposes of the approved plan as a condition of receiving or expending the funds.

“(c) INDIRECT COSTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an Indian tribe shall be entitled to recover 100 percent of any indirect costs incurred by the Indian tribe as a result of the transfer of funds to the Indian tribe under this Act.”; and

(3) in subsection (d) (as redesignated by paragraph (1))—

(A) by striking “All administrative” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—All administrative”; and

(B) by striking “regulations”)” and all that follows through the end of the subsection and inserting the following: “regulations).

“(2) TREATMENT.—The amount equal to the difference between the amount of the commingled funds and the actual administrative cost of the programs, as described in paragraph (1), shall be considered to be properly spent for Federal audit purposes if the amount is used to achieve the purposes of this Act.

“(e) MATCHING FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds transferred to an Indian tribe under this Act shall be treated as non-Federal funds for purposes of meeting matching requirements under any other Federal law.

“(f) CLAIMS.—The following provisions of law shall apply to plans approved under this Act:

“(1) Section 314 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1991 (Public Law 101-512; 104 Stat. 1959).

“(2) Chapter 171 of title 28 (commonly known as the ‘Federal Tort Claims Act’).

“(g) INTEREST OR OTHER INCOME.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An Indian tribe shall be entitled to retain interest earned on any funds transferred to the tribe under an approved plan and such interest shall not diminish the amount of funds the Indian tribe is authorized to receive under the plan in the year the interest is earned or in any subsequent fiscal year.

“(2) PRUDENT INVESTMENT.—Funds transferred under a plan shall be managed in accordance with the prudent investment standard.”.

SEC. 15. LABOR MARKET INFORMATION ON INDIAN WORK FORCE.

Section 17(a) of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3416(a)) is amended in the first sentence—

(1) by striking “The Secretary” and all that follows through “manner,” and inserting “The Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary, Indian tribes, and the Director of the Bureau of the Census, shall”; and

(2) by striking “, by gender.”.

SEC. 16. REPEALS; CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) REPEALS.—Sections 15 and 16 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3414, 3415) are repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Sections 17 and 18 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3416, 3417) (as amended by this Act) are redesignated as sections 15 and 16, respectively.

SEC. 17. EFFECT OF ACT.

Nothing in this Act or any amendment made by this Act—

(1) affects any plan approved under the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3401 et seq.) (as so redesignated) before the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) requires any Indian tribe or tribal organization to resubmit a plan described in paragraph (1); or

(3) modifies the effective period of any plan described in paragraph (1).

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDING THE GRAND RONDE RESERVATION ACT TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 403, S. 818.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 818) to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL LAND FOR GRAND RONDE RESERVATION.

Section 1 of Public Law 100-425 (commonly known as the “Grand Ronde Reservation Act”) (25 U.S.C. 713f note; 102 Stat. 1594; 104 Stat. 207; 108 Stat. 708; 108 Stat. 4566; 112 Stat. 1896), is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the first sentence—

(i) by striking “Subject to valid existing rights, including (but not limited to) all” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, including all”; and

(ii) by inserting “(referred to in this Act as the ‘Tribes’)” before the period at the end;

(B) in the second sentence, by striking “Such land” and inserting the following:

“(2) TREATMENT.—The land referred to in paragraph (1)”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) ADDITIONAL TRUST ACQUISITIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may accept title in and to any additional real property located within the boundaries of the original 1857 reservation of the Tribes (as established by the Executive order dated June 30, 1857, and comprised of land within the political boundaries of Polk and Yamhill Counties, Oregon), if that real property is conveyed or otherwise transferred to the United States by, or on behalf of, the Tribes.

“(B) TREATMENT OF TRUST LAND.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—An application to take land into trust within the boundaries of the original 1857 reservation of the Tribes shall be treated by the Secretary as an on-reservation trust acquisition.

“(ii) GAMING.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (II), real property taken into trust pursuant to this paragraph shall not be eligible, or used, for any class II gaming or class III gaming (as those terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2703)).

“(II) EXCEPTION.—Subclause (I) shall not apply to any real property located within 2 miles of the gaming facility in existence on the date of enactment of this paragraph located on State Highway 18 in the Grand Ronde community, Oregon.

“(C) RESERVATION.—All real property taken into trust within the boundaries described in subparagraph (A) at any time after September 9, 1988, shall be considered to be a part of the reservation of the Tribes.”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the matter preceding the table, by striking “in subsection (a) are approximately 10,311.60” and inserting “in subsection (a)(1) are the approximately 11,349.92”; and

(B) by striking the table and inserting the following:

“South	West	Section	Subdivision	Acres
4	8	36	SE ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄	40
4	7	31	Lots 1,2, NE ¹ / ₄ , E ¹ / ₂ NW ¹ / ₄	320.89
5	7	6	All	634.02
5	7	7	All	638.99
5	7	18	Lots 1 & 2, NE ¹ / ₄ , E ¹ / ₂ NW ¹ / ₄	320.07
5	8	1	SE ¹ / ₄	160
5	8	3	All	635.60
5	8	7	All	661.75
5	8	8	All	640
5	8	9	All	640
5	8	10	All	640
5	8	11	All	640
5	8	12	All	640
5	8	13	All	640
5	8	14	All	640
5	8	15	All	640
5	8	16	All	640
5	8	17	All	640
6	8	1	SW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ , W ¹ / ₂ SE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄	53.78
6	8	1	S ¹ / ₂ E ¹ / ₂ SE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄	10.03
6	7	7, 8, 17, 18	Former tax lot 800, located within the SE ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄ of sec. 7; SW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ of sec. 8; NW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ of sec. 17; and NE ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ of sec. 18	5.55
4	7	30	Lots 3,4, SW ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ , SE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ , E ¹ / ₂ SW ¹ / ₄	241.06
6	8	1	N ¹ / ₂ SW ¹ / ₄	29.59
6	8	12	W ¹ / ₂ SW ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ , SE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ , N ¹ / ₂ SE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ , N ¹ / ₂ SW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄	21.70
6	8	13	W ¹ / ₂ E ¹ / ₂ NW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄	5.31
6	7	7	E ¹ / ₂ E ¹ / ₂	57.60
6	7	8	SW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ , W ¹ / ₂ SW ¹ / ₄	22.46
6	7	17	NW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ , N ¹ / ₂ SW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄	10.84
6	7	18	E ¹ / ₂ NE ¹ / ₄	43.42
6	8	1	W ¹ / ₂ SE ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄	20.6
6	8	1	N ¹ / ₂ SW ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄	19.99
6	8	1	SE ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄	9.99
6	8	1	NE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄	10.46
6	8	1	NE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ , NW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄	12.99
6	7	6	SW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄	37.39
6	7	5	SE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄	24.87
6	7	5, 8	SW ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄ of sec. 5; and NE ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ , NW ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ , NE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ of sec. 8	109.9
6	8	1	NW ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄	31.32
6	8	1	NE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄	8.89
6	8	1	SW ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ , NW ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄	78.4
6	7	8, 17	SW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ of sec. 8; and NE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ , NW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ of sec. 17	14.33
6	7	17	NW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄	6.68
6	8	12	SW ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄	8.19
6	8	1	SE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄	2.0
6	8	1	SW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄	5.05
6	8	12	SE ¹ / ₄ , SW ¹ / ₄	54.64
6	7	17, 18	SW ¹ / ₄ , NW ¹ / ₄ of sec. 17; and SE ¹ / ₄ , NE ¹ / ₄ of sec. 18	136.83
6	8	1	SW ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄	20.08
6	7	5	NE ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄ , SE ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄ , E ¹ / ₂ SE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄	97.38
4	7	31	SE ¹ / ₄	159.60
6	7	17	NW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄	3.14
6	8	12	NW ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄	1.10
6	7	8	SW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄	0.92
6	8	12	NE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄	1.99
6	7, 8	7, 12	NW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ of sec. 7; and S ¹ / ₂ NE ¹ / ₄ E ¹ / ₂ NE ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ of sec. 12	86.48
6	8	12	NE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄	1.56
6	7, 8	6, 1	W ¹ / ₂ SW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ of sec. 6; and E ¹ / ₂ SE ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄ of sec. 1	35.82
6	7	5	E ¹ / ₂ NW ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄	19.88
6	8	12	NW ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄	0.29
6	8	1	SE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄	2.5
6	7	8	NE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄	7.16
6	8	1	SE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄	5.5
6	8	1	SE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄	1.34
			Total	11,349.92.”.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 818), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY TO THE RESERVATION OF THE SILETZ TRIBE IN THE STATE OF OREGON

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 380, S. 817.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 817) to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 817) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 817

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

SECTION 1. PURPOSE; CLARIFICATION.

(a) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this Act is to facilitate fee-to-trust applications for the Siletz Tribe within the geographic area specified in the amendment made by this Act.

(b) **CLARIFICATION.**—Except as specifically provided otherwise by this Act or the amendment made by this Act, nothing in this Act or the amendment made by this Act, shall prioritize for any purpose the claims of any federally recognized Indian tribe over the claims of any other federally recognized Indian tribe.

SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OF THE SILETZ TRIBE OF THE STATE OF OREGON.

Section 7 of the Siletz Tribe Indian Restoration Act (25 U.S.C. 711e) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) **TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PROPERTY.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

“(A) **TITLE.**—The Secretary may accept title to any additional number of acres of real property located within the boundaries of the original 1855 Siletz Coast Reservation established by Executive order dated November 9, 1855, comprised of land within the political boundaries of Benton, Douglas, Lane, Lincoln, Tillamook, and Yamhill Counties in the State of Oregon, if that real property is conveyed or otherwise transferred to the United States by or on behalf of the tribe.

“(B) **TRUST.**—Land to which title is accepted by the Secretary under this paragraph shall be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the tribe.

“(2) **TREATMENT AS PART OF RESERVATION.**—All real property that is taken into trust under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) be considered and evaluated as an on-reservation acquisition under part 151.10 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations); and

“(B) become part of the reservation of the tribe.

“(3) **PROHIBITION ON GAMING.**—Any real property taken into trust under paragraph (1) shall not be eligible, or used, for any gaming activity carried out under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.).”

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 2016 AS NATIONAL OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 521.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 521) expressing support for the designation of September 2016 as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 521) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of July 7, 2016, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

CONGRATULATING THE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM ON THE CELEBRATION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 349.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 349) congratulating the Farm Credit System on the celebration of its 100th anniversary.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 349) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of January 28, 2016, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

DANIEL J. EVANS OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS ACT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 571, S. 3028.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3028) to redesignate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 3028) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3028

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 “Daniel J. Evans Olympic National Park Wilderness Act”.

SEC. 2. REDESIGNATION AS DANIEL J. EVANS WILDERNESS.

(a) **REDESIGNATION.**—Section 101(a) of the Washington Park Wilderness Act of 1988 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 102 Stat. 3961) is amended, in the second sentence, by striking “Olympic Wilderness” and inserting “Daniel J. Evans Wilderness”.

(b) **REFERENCES.**—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Olympic Wilderness shall be deemed to be a reference to the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2607, H.R. 3931, H.R. 3953, H.R. 4010, H.R. 4425, H.R. 4747, H.R. 4761, H.R. 4777, H.R. 4877, H.R. 4925, H.R. 4975, H.R. 4987, H.R. 5028, and the Senate proceed to their immediate consideration, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the bills be read a third time and passed and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JEANNE AND JULES MANFORD POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 2607) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7802 37th Avenue in Jackson Heights, New York, as the “Jeanne and Jules Manford Post Office Building,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER ADAM BROWN UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 3931) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 620 Central Avenue Suite 1A in Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas, as the “Chief Petty Officer Adam Brown United States Post Office,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS FELTON ROGER FUSSELL MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 3953) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4122 Madison Street, Elfers, Florida, as the “Private First Class Felton Roger Fussell Memorial Post Office” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ED PASTOR POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 4010) to designate the facility of the United States Postal

Service located at 522 North Central Avenue in Phoenix, Arizona, as the "Ed Pastor Post Office," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EUGENE J. MCCARTHY POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 4425) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 110 East Powerhouse Road in Collegetown, Minnesota, as the "Eugene J. McCarthy Post Office," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MAJOR GREGORY E. BARNEY POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 4747) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6691 Church Street in Riverdale, Georgia, as the "Major Gregory E. Barney Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LOUIS VAN IERSEL POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 4761) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 61 South Baldwin Avenue in Sierra Madre, California, as the "Louis Van Iersel Post Office," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AMELIA BOYNTON ROBINSON POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 4777) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1301 Alabama Avenue in Selma, Alabama as the "Amelia Boynton Robinson Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LCPL GARRETT W. GAMBLE, USMC POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 4877) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3130 Grants Lake Boulevard in Sugar Land, Texas, as the "LCpl Garrett W. Gamble, USMC Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MICHAEL GARVER OXLEY MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 4925) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 229 West Main Cross Street, in Findlay, Ohio, as the "Michael Garver Oxley Memorial Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS CALEB A. NELSON POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 4975) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5720 South 142nd Street in Omaha, Nebraska, as the

"Petty Officer 1st Class Caleb A. Nelson Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS WILLIAM "KELLY" LACEY POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 4987) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3957 2nd Avenue in Laurel Hill, Florida, as the "Sergeant First Class William 'Kelly' Lacey Post Office," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MARY E. MCCOY POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 5028) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10721 E Jefferson Ave in Detroit, Michigan, as the "Mary E. McCoy Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 538, S. Res. 539, S. Res. 540, S. Res. 541, S. Res. 542, S. Res. 543, S. Res. 544, S. Res. 545, S. Res. 546, S. Res. 547, and S. Res. 548.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

S. RES. 541

Ms. HIRONO. Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise today to introduce a resolution to commemorate Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and Haleakala National Park on their 100th anniversary.

On August 1, 1916, 3 weeks prior to the founding of the National Park Service, Congress established Hawaii National Park, comprised of two sections located on the island of Maui and the island of Hawaii. The two sections of the park were subsequently separated and redesignated as Haleakala National Park and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

The two parks were set aside in perpetuity for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of Hawaii and the people of the United States. In the last 100 years, they have served their purpose well. Last year, over 1.2 million people visited Haleakala National Park, while over 1.8 million people visited Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

The parks have also proven to be an economic boon to the State of Hawaii. In 2015, visitors to Haleakala National Park spent over \$76 million in surrounding communities, supporting nearly 1,000 jobs.

Visitors to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park spent over \$151 million in areas around the park and supported nearly 2,000 local jobs. However, the importance of Haleakala National Park and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park to the people of the State of Ha-

wai, to the Nation, and globally is much more than economic benefit. The parks serve as invaluable scientific and cultural assets and have been instrumental in preserving some of the most ecologically diverse ecosystems in the world.

For example, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is home to two of the world's most active volcanoes, providing visitors the ability to gain a greater understanding of volcanic and geologic processes. Hawaii's isolation and the substantial number of plant and animal species that are native to Hawaii and found nowhere else in the world have contributed greatly to our understanding of evolutionary biology.

The scientific significance of both Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and Haleakala National Park was highlighted when the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization designated both parks as biosphere reserves in 1980.

Hawaii Volcanoes and Haleakala also provide access to substantial cultural and historic resources. Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is home to a number of precontact archaeological sites, including Puu Loa, which contains over 23,000 petroglyphs.

However, Hawaii's national parks are not places where culture is discussed in the past tense. Even today, Native Hawaiians come to these parks to renew ties to ancestors, conduct cultural gatherings and rituals, and pass traditions down to the next generation.

Both parks also serve as a refuge for hundreds of native plants and animals, many of which are endangered and threatened. Indeed, Haleakala National Park is home to more endangered species than any other site in the National Park System, including the Hawaiian Silversword, and dozens of endangered Native Hawaiian birds.

For the last century, residents of Hawaii, the United States, and the world have visited Haleakala National Park and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and gained a greater appreciation for the natural environment, the history of Hawaii, and Native Hawaiian culture. As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of these parks, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing August 1, 2016, as "Hawaii Volcanoes and Haleakala National Parks Day" and encourage as many people as possible from across the Nation to come to Hawaii to visit these national treasures.

S. RES. 542

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, as a member of the Congressional Trade-mark Caucus, I have made it a goal to increase awareness and spark a dialogue about the importance of trademarks. Because this year constitutes the 70th anniversary of the Lanham Act, I would like to join my colleague, Senator COONS, in introducing a resolution

to recognize the Lanham Act and designate July as National Anti-Counterfeiting Consumer Education and Awareness Month.

Seventy years ago, the Lanham Act was signed by President Harry Truman to establish remedies for brand owners suffering from trademark infringement and to protect consumers from counterfeit products. It is this very law that has laid the foundation for modern trademark protection and led to a tremendous increase in the use of trademarks.

According to the World Intellectual Property Organization, in 2012, approximately 24 million trademarks were in force around the world. Further, the U.S. Department of Commerce reports that 31 percent of all jobs in the United States are in intellectual property-intensive industries.

Despite the legal framework currently in place to protect against counterfeiting, trademark-related crimes are one of the fastest growing economic problems worldwide. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, manufacturing, trade, and consumption of counterfeit products continues to increase, escalating from \$250 billion in 2008 to \$461 billion in 2013.

Other counterfeiting trends were recently highlighted in a study released by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Intellectual Property Center, GIPC. The study found that China and Hong Kong alone represent 86 percent of the global physical counterfeiting. This translates into \$396.5 billion worth of counterfeit goods each year. This level of counterfeiting activity bears serious economic and health and safety implications, both locally and internationally.

The GIPC also found that the value of seized counterfeit goods by customs in 38 sampled economies totals less than 2.5 percent of the global measure of physical counterfeiting. This suggests that although the efforts of customs authorities yield results, the extent of their success is still “a drop in the bucket.”

Not only are trademark-related crimes growing rapidly, the devastating effects are also far-reaching. Trademark-related crimes impact not only whole industries, but economies as well. The most direct impact of counterfeiting is revenue loss. The GIPC estimates losses to be in the billions for any given industry.

Brand owners are actively responding to this problem. According to a GIPC report, some companies spend as much as \$20 million annually in an attempt to fight counterfeiting of their products. This is money that could have been spent on research and development, business expansion, and innovation.

There are also indirect effects stemming from counterfeit products that cause economic disruption. For example, the presence of counterfeits leads to lowered incentives for innovation,

spiking unemployment rates, and slower economic growth. This is a serious issue for the United States, considering the U.S. Department of Commerce reports intellectual property generates 34 percent of U.S. GDP, two-thirds of U.S. exports, and \$5.8 trillion in U.S. output.

Counterfeits have devastating effects on the health and safety of consumers. For example, there has been a spike in production of fakes that have an immense impact on everyday life—such as airbags, smoke detectors, computer chips, and prescription drugs.

With increased counterfeiting of so many everyday products, the presumption of quality and effectiveness is becoming less certain. Unfortunately, there is an increased possibility of lasting and potentially fatal consequences for consumers' health and safety.

In April, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing entitled, “Counterfeits and Their Impact on Consumer Health and Safety.” This hearing specifically explored how hazardous counterfeit products—like medicines, electronics, automotive, and military parts—can harm consumers.

The hearing panel warned that consumers unknowingly purchase counterfeits. In fact, consumers often pay the same as they would for legitimate goods, but receive potentially unsafe products. For example, consumers are purchasing fake chargers that may explode or medicines that may be manufactured with dangerous or contaminated substances. These types of counterfeits can result in severe injuries, including death.

The hearing panel also discussed the exploitation by counterfeits of e-commerce platforms with a business direct to consumer business model. Cyber commerce, for-profit streaming, and ever-changing technologies have continued to present new challenges in combating counterfeiting activity. They also discussed the changing tactics of counterfeiters, including small package delivery through the mail, which make it difficult for law enforcement to go after these criminals.

Counterfeit products have been found to have ties to terrorism, trafficking, and organized crime groups around the world. According to the GIPC report, Interpol and FBI seizure records suggest that proceeds from counterfeit brake pads and cigarettes have been earmarked for terrorist groups like Hezbollah and al-Qaeda. As the scope of counterfeit products increases, so does the ability of criminal and hostile organizations to fund their illicit and harmful operations.

Increased education and awareness efforts are critical to helping to put a stop to ar counterfeit activity. That is why we are honoring the Lanham Act and designating July as National Anti-Counterfeiting Consumer Education and Awareness Month. Educating members of Congress, the media, and the public about the dangers of counterfeits and the vital role trademarks play will help protect consumers from con-

fusion and deception in the marketplace. In addition, Congress, Federal agencies and law enforcement, the business community, and consumer groups must all work together so we can keep consumers safe.

As chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, as well as in my capacity as a cochair of the Congressional Trademark Caucus, I will continue to work aggressively to facilitate dialogue, inform consumers, and collaborate with government agencies on trademark-related issues. And I am pleased to work my colleague Senator COONS on this resolution.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, with Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, I am proud to cosponsor a resolution designating July 2016 as the “National Anti-Counterfeiting Consumer Education and Awareness” Month in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Lanham Act, which provided the foundation for our modern Federal trademark registration system. Not only are trademarks a source of significant value for companies, but they also play an important role in communicating the authenticity and integrity of products and services to customers, thereby promoting consumer safety. For example, counterfeit batteries, sometimes featuring fake trademarks, have been linked to increased risks of spontaneous fires—a clear safety hazard if that battery is in a consumer product such as a children's toy. According to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency, seizures related to counterfeit intellectual property increased almost 25 percent between 2014 and 2015. While the government must continue its interception of fake goods at our borders, these numbers and the apparent rise of this problem also call for greater consumer awareness of the risks of buying counterfeit products. By designating this month the “National Anti-Counterfeiting Consumer Education and Awareness” Month, I hope to foster such an awareness and the role that intellectual property—here, the trademark system—plays in helping to protect consumers.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 50.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 50) providing for an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 50) was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURE INDEFINITELY POSTPONED—H.R. 1462

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that H.R. 1462, which was previously received from the House, be indefinitely postponed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REPORTING AUTHORITY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the Senate's adjournment, committees be authorized to report legislative and executive matters on Tuesday, August 30, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2016, THROUGH TUESDAY, SEP- TEMBER 6, 2016

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday,

July 15, 11:30 a.m.; Tuesday, July 19, 1 p.m.; Friday, July 22, 1 p.m.; Tuesday, July 26, 10 a.m.; Friday, July 29, 10 a.m.; Tuesday, August 2, 10 a.m.; Friday, August 5, 7:45 a.m.; Tuesday, August 9, 12:55 p.m.; Friday, August 12, 8 a.m.; Tuesday, August 16, 9 a.m.; Friday, August 19, 3 p.m.; Tuesday, August 23, 4 p.m.; Friday, August 26, 10 a.m.; Tuesday, August 30, 9 a.m.; and Friday, September 2, 10 a.m. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, September 2, it next convene at 3 p.m., Tuesday, September 6; 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. I ask that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2577; finally, that the pending cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 6.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:05 p.m., adjourned until Friday, July 15, 2016, at 11:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

DAVID V. BREWER, OF OREGON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2019. (REAPPOINTMENT)

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

C. PETER MAHURIN, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2021. (REAPPOINTMENT)

MICHAEL MCWHERTER, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2021. (REAPPOINTMENT)

JOE H. RITCH, OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2021. (REAPPOINTMENT)

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

CHATTIE N. LEVY
MICHELLE L. PLETCHER
LISA G. WILSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ARTHUR J. BILENKER
BRUCE M. CARPENTER
AUBREY J. HENSHAW III
JOHN H. MCLEMORE
RICHARD L. OWENS
INEZ E. WRIGHT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JOHN J. BRADY

MICHAEL A. CAMPBELL
SCOTT A. CARLTON
RICHARD F. CHADEK
ROBERT D. DOUGLAS
JOSEPH A. J. FARQUHAR
IAN L. FAWKS
GARY M. JONSON
MICHAEL F. LORICH
LESLIE K. MCKENZIE
CHARLES R. RADMER
ROBERT E. ROSS, JR.
KEVIN R. SCOTT
ELIZABETH A. WERNIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

RICHARD J. BUTALLA
MICHAEL E. COLLINS
KRISTIAN L. DUGGER
MARLEEN M. LAJOIE
DANE E. RODGERS
ARTHUR A. RUSSELL
ROBERT J. STUART
JAMES L. VANVOOREN
JEFFREY T. WILLIAMS
WILLIAM D. YATES
MARK B. YOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

CHRISTOPHER B. AASGAARD
GREGORY N. GEISSINGER
JOHN J. KNIGHT, JR.
JEROME M. MOLSTAD
DARIN J. MONGEON
MICHAEL E. MYSLIENSKI
THOMAS E. PAGENKOPF
GUSTAV T. RIEMER
WILLIAM A. SOCRATES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

PAUL V. RAHM

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

MICHAEL A. DEAN
ROBERT L. GROFF
MICHAEL G. KAUFFMAN
DANIEL B. NEFF
MARK O. WORLEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JONNIE L. BAILEY
ROGER R. BOUTIN III
BARBARA J. BRADBURN
LEEANN M. CAPACE
MICHAEL D. CRUM
ANGEL L. CRUZMALAVE
CHARLES A. DARLING
TIMOTHY W. DAYTON
JAMES L. GLASS
BARBARA J. GREEN
KIETH A. HAND
VICKI H. HATHORN
ELIZABETH R. HOUGLANADKINS
LATRENCIA T. JOHNSON
LAURA LANEWILLIAMS
CHARLES T. LENT
CHRISTINA M. LYERLA
DEBORAH A. MAHARGARCIA
TERESA MALEY
JUNE B. MCGHEE
MARY G. MUELLER
TAMMIE E. OEMKE
HEIDI L. OTIS
MARK H. PARSONS
DAVID M. PLUMMER
RITA M. F. POCE
BRIAN D. POYNOR
LEWIS T. ROGERS
MARK W. SCHIERENBECK
MARK E. SCOTT
VANESSA L. SPIVEYBURKE
JOYCE A. TORIANO
BARBARA F. WALL
SUZANNE M. WILSON
INEZ B. WITHERS
ILONA L. WRIGHT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

GORDON B. CHIU
WING DJAYA
COLLEEN S. JENSON
MARC R. JOHNSON
MATTHEW C. KHUN
KATHERINE H. MARTIN
ANHSTEVE H. NGUYEN
JACQUELINE I. OJIMBA

SCOTT B. SALANCY
RENE E. SCOTT
PAUL A. VIATOR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

SCOTT B. ARMEN
REONO BERTAGNOLLI
WILLIAMS Q. BRITTON
WARD M. BROWN
JAMES M. BRUMIT
GARY E. CAPLAN
JOHN Y. CHA
HOWARD L. CURLIN
JAMES J. DIMAIO
BILL M. DUDA
RAYMOND T. FOSTER
BRETT A. FREEDMAN
MATTHEW B. GOODWIN
JAMES I. HARDING
RICHARD J. HARRISON
JILL C. HASLING
CHRISTOPHER H. HOYT
RAMAIAH INDUDHARA
JOSEPH P. JOHNSON
GORDON J. KINZLER
JOHN T. KOLISNYK
BRIAN A. KRAKOVER
MICHAEL T. LAKE
JORGE I. LOPEZ
RICHARD M. LUCCHESI
DAVID E. MARCOZZI
BRETT D. MCGEEVER
VINCENT L. MOSS
ELAINE M. MUNITZ
TAM Q. NGUYEN
LISA J. OLSEN
RAUL G. PALACIOS
FRANCISCO J. PEREZRIVERA
NANCY Q. PETERSMEYER
VALENS M. PLUMMER
ERIC A. RUEBKE
SUSAN SAVELL
ALFRED J. SCHLORKE
MATTHEW R. SMOLIN
CHRISTOPHER A. STRODE

ANTHONY SULLIVAN
SENEEN TORRESVAZQUEZ
KIEN C. N. TRAN
ROBERT D. WALKUP
LANCE W. WEAGANT
MICHAEL B. YAFFE
JON S. YAMAGUCHI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

THAD J. COLLARD
JOHN A. FELTHOUS
KEITH A. JONES
JACQUELINE R. KROGULSKI
RUSSELL P. REITER
JANETTE RIVERALOPEZ
JOHN C. ROCKWELL
ELLEN M. SHANNONBALL
JACINTA H. SHOWERS
CARLOS TAMEZ
BRAD R. WENSTRUP
DANIEL R. WILBORN
MICHAEL L. YOST

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ANN M. B. HALL
DAVID W. ROSE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

GARRY E. ONEAL
CRISTOPHER A. YOUNG

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by
the Senate July 14, 2016:

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

JULIUS LLOYD HORWICH, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR LEGISLATION AND CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

THOMAS F. SCOTT DARLING, III, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION.

BLAIR ANDERSON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION FOR POLICY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ANNE HALL, OF MAINE, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA.

LAWRENCE ROBERT SILVERMAN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE STATE OF KUWAIT.

CAROL Z. PEREZ, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE.

GEOFFREY R. PYATT, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO GREECE.

DOUGLAS ALAN SILLIMAN, OF TEXAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ.

MARIE L. YOVANOVITCH, OF CONNECTICUT, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO UKRAINE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FARM CREDIT SYSTEM: 100 YEARS OF SUPPORT FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Farm Credit System which this year is celebrating 100 years of service to our rural communities and agribusinesses of all types and sizes. Across our country, and in my own District, the Farm Credit System provides the needed capital to help agricultural producers grow and thrive.

The Farm Credit System actively supports 500,000 borrower-customers, including 24,000 in Minnesota. The system also provides much needed support to the next generation of agricultural producers, as well as financial support for agriculture education, scholarships and organizations like 4-H and FFA.

In my district, Farm Credit has partnered with USDA and banks on investments in projects that help fulfill the critical need for high quality healthcare. These partnerships fund projects that are vital to my constituents and all that utilize their services.

I ask my colleagues in Congress to join me in recognizing this important milestone for the Farm Credit System and its continued contributions to our rural communities and agriculture.

EMPOWERING STUDENTS THROUGH ENHANCED FINANCIAL COUNSELING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 3179, the Empowering Students Through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act. I appreciate the opportunity to work with Congressman GUTHRIE on this important legislation, and I commend Chairman KLINE and Ranking Member SCOTT for their leadership, without which this bill would not be on the path to becoming law.

The Empowering Students Through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act will provide college students with clearer information about their rights and obligations as student loan borrowers. The current process of borrowing student loans and preparing for repayment can be confusing. In fact, I have heard from many borrowers who did not understand the terms of their loans or the tools and programs available to help them manage their debt. The lack of information on the benefits and consequences of taking on student debt is especially troubling during a time when more students are turning to loans to cover the costs

of higher education—and they are borrowing larger amounts, on average.

This legislation will put in place several commonsense requirements to help student loan borrowers make informed decisions about borrowing and plan for the future. The bill will require annual loan counseling. Each year students can track how much they have borrowed, how much they are projected to borrow, how much interest has accrued and will continue to accrue, and what they are likely to be asked to pay each month upon entering repayment. In addition to regularly monitoring their debt, students will be reminded that they can pay off interest, if they are able to, before it capitalizes, that they are not obligated to borrow the full amount for which they are eligible, and that Federal student loans tend to provide more benefits and safeguards than private education loans.

The Empowering Students Through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act provides comprehensive information to Pell Grant recipients so that they understand the terms of the grants and the circumstances in which they may have to repay the grants. The bill also provides improved information to parents who borrow PLUS Loans to cover the costs of a child's education. By providing more frequent information to loan borrowers and extending counseling to parents and Pell Grant recipients, this bill will help more people take steps to reduce borrowing and prepare to repay their student loans successfully.

Furthermore, this legislation requires a longitudinal study of the effects of loan counseling. The study will examine whether better counseling contributes to a reduction in borrowing, a decrease in delinquencies and defaults, and an increase in program completion. Importantly, the effects of loan counseling will be disaggregated by race, gender, and income—allowing policymakers to determine whether enhanced counseling is benefiting all loan borrowers.

Once again, I would like to thank Congressman GUTHRIE, Chairman KLINE, and Ranking Member SCOTT for their partnership on this legislation and their commitment to making college more affordable and accessible. Congress has a lot of work to do, but the Empowering Students Through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act is an important step that will help more students navigate the student loan market and build successful futures.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE BOEING COMPANY

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the founding of The Boeing Company. The history of the company is a true American success story.

Founded in Seattle, Washington, by William E. Boeing, assembly of the first Boeing airplane was completed in a hanger located on the northeast shore of Lake Union.

Since its founding, Boeing has been instrumental in building the economy in the Puget Sound region. The Boeing of today, with more than 165,000 employees worldwide, has evolved into a global leader in the aviation industry. Despite Boeing's global footprint, the company's commitment to more than 200 community partners and non-profits in the Puget Sound region is unparalleled. I commend Boeing for years of support and contributions to projects focusing on STEM education, foster care, land conservation and food distribution, all of which have paid tremendous dividends toward improving the overall health of communities across Washington State.

Boeing's focus and commitment to environmental leadership, ethics and compliance, working conditions and human rights, employee safety, diversity and inclusion, education, military and veteran engagement and community engagement has contributed to an impressive and rewarding first 100 years. I wish the company an equally successful second century.

Lastly, I give thanks to the past and present employees of Boeing whose hard work, talent and determination have allowed the company to follow the sage advice of William Boeing to "build something better."

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN R. FRITZ

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John R. Fritz, 48, who passed away on June 27, 2016. John was born on March 20, 1968 in Youngstown, Ohio, the son of Richard and Diane (Griffith) Fritz.

John graduated from the Austintown Fitch School, where he was consistently involved in the school's instrumental music program, in 1986. He went on to join the Austintown Fire Department for 26 years. He worked as a MCCTC fire instructor for many years and helped found the Austintown Honor Guard. John was also employed by the Western Reserve Mechanical in Niles for almost 20 years.

Throughout his life, John prioritized spending time with his family and serving others. He enjoyed archery, shooting, and scuba diving. He held a black belt in karate, collected unusual knives, enjoyed line dancing, appreciated motorcycles, and was a talented tinkerer. Passionate about raising money to fight Spina Bifida, John twice walked 60 miles from Austintown Fire Station No. 1 to Cleveland Clinic to help raise \$5,700 in donations. He was a founding member of the Mahoning Valley Fools (Fraternal Order of Leatherhead).

John will be deeply missed by his family. He leaves behind his wife, Karen (Bickle) Fritz,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

whom he married on September 11, 1999, and his children, Ryley, Bailey, Halley, Kassidey and Owen. He leaves also his parents, Richard and Diane; his sister, Jill (Kenneth) Ferrone; father-in-law, Gordon Bickle; brothers-in-law, Greg and Kevin Bickle; niece, Madison; nephew, Miles Ferrone; and his family of firefighters. He also leaves his dogs, Toby, LuLu, Sophie Mae, and Kooper.

Charitable even through his death, John was a Lifebank donor. He will be sadly missed by the community to which he gave so much.

CELEBRATING SPECTROLAB'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TONY CÁRDENAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Spectrolab, located in Sylmar.

Spectrolab was founded in 1956 by Mr. Alfred E. Mann, a noted entrepreneur, inventor, and philanthropist.

Spectrolab is the world's leading manufacturer of solar cells and solar panels for space. Having manufactured more than 6.5 million solar cells, Spectrolab has powered more than 600 satellites and exploration vehicles.

The technology and products developed by Spectrolab have been a part of our nation's first ventures into space, including Pioneer 1 in 1958 and Explorer 6 in 1959.

Its solar panels were placed on the moon during the *Apollo 11* mission in 1969.

In 2004, Spectrolab received NASA's George M. Low Award for Supplier Quality and Excellence and had multi-junction cells inducted into the Space Technology Hall of Fame by the United States Space Foundation.

Spectrolab's solar cells power the International Space Station, the largest spacecraft in orbit. They recently set a new record with its advanced solar cells, powering Juno, NASA's interplanetary probe, on a mission to Jupiter.

With more than 80 percent of all law enforcement aircraft and helicopters in the United States using Spectrolab's Nightsun searchlights, this Sylmar Company has also made a difference in cities across the country.

Spectrolab's contributions to the San Fernando Valley and the space industry are truly commendable.

I applaud the record of unparalleled accomplishments in space exploration, illumination, and solar cell technology and satellite development.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED WAY OF LAKE AND SUMTER COUNTIES

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the tireless service and earnest dedication of United Way of Lake and Sumter Counties as they celebrate their 50th anniversary.

Since 1965, United Way of Lake and Sumter Counties has collaborated with community partners to empower individuals and families in Lake and Sumter Counties to achieve their maximum potential through education, income stability, and healthy lives. In 2016, United Way of Lake and Sumter Counties will invest more than \$273,295 in 14 education, income and health programs in Lake and Sumter Counties. In addition, United Way of Lake and Sumter Counties community investments include \$345,000 to fund other programs including: 2-1-1, Family Emergency Services, the Human Care Network, and the Volunteer Tax Assistance program.

I am pleased to recognize the selfless work of United Way of Lake and Sumter Counties and their altruistic aspiration to improve our communities and help our neighbors. May their example inspire many to follow in their footsteps.

IN HONOR OF THE HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS OF KIMSE YOK MU (KYM)

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give recognition to the non-profit organization Kimse Yok Mu (KYM). This Turkish based international organization has successfully provided developmental and humanitarian aid through enlisting the help of 180,000 volunteers worldwide in over 113 countries. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the amazing achievements of this great organization.

Established in 2002, KYM has been able to aid over 200,000 families within Turkey and even millions more around the world. Their efforts include helping bring clean water to 17 African countries through the creation of 1,622 fresh water drinking wells, providing cataract surgery to 25,577 people on the African continent, as well as helping orphaned children in 56 countries.

KYM has been granted United Nations ECOSOC Special Consultative Status as an international charity, as they are credited with providing different sources of aid through medical services, social services, disaster relief, humanitarian services, educational programs, and sustainable infrastructure development. KYM is known to quickly respond to natural disasters through its sophisticated monitoring system and efficient work ethic.

The KYM has significantly changed millions of people's lives for the better, and on behalf of the people of the United States and New Jersey we thank them immensely for their humanitarian efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call votes 453, 454, and 455 held on July 13th, 2016, I was inescapably detained

handling important matters related to my District and the State of Alabama. If I had been present, I would have voted NO on the Palmer amendment, NO on the Gosar amendment, and NO on the Perry amendment to the FY2017 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

HONORING SUSAN E. STRICKLER ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT FROM THE CURRIER MUSEUM OF ART IN MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Susan Strickler on her retirement after 20 years with the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, New Hampshire, and thank her for the outstanding work she did during her career.

Ms. Strickler's commitment to expanding access to great art to the residents of New Hampshire and building on the strong reputation the Currier has had in New England and beyond has been outstanding. Her efforts to bring in new modern exhibits, while also highlighting the timeless beauty of more historical and revered works has helped to broaden the appeal of the museum to new generations.

She has not only helped to promote and expand access to the arts in New Hampshire, but also to solidify the Currier as an important landmark in the City of Manchester, with the expansion of its grounds and buildings.

It is with great admiration that I congratulate Ms. Strickler on her retirement and all that she's accomplished in her career, and wish her the best on all future endeavors.

HONORING STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE OF MISSOURI PRESIDENT DR. DON CLAYCOMB ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Dr. Don Claycomb. He retired as President of State Technical College of Missouri on June 30, 2016. Dr. Claycomb dedicated over two decades of service to the college. Dr. Claycomb is currently the longest-serving public college president in Missouri.

At the beginning of his career, Dr. Claycomb was a high school agriculture teacher and FFA advisor. During those years of teaching, Dr. Claycomb was introduced to State Technical College of Missouri. During the years Dr. Claycomb has been president there have been numerous name changes for the college. When he first started working there in 1993, the name was Linn Technical Junior College; it was then changed to Linn Technical College. Then in 1996, the name was changed to Linn State Technical College. In 2013, the Missouri General Assembly passed HB 673 that would change the college's name to State

Technical College of Missouri as of July 1, 2014. Throughout the name changes for the college, Dr. Claycomb stated, "We have maintained the main purpose of preparing students for the workforce."

At Dr. Claycomb's hiring, the original board members charged him with specific goals, which he attributes to his success while president of the college. They first asked him to improve staff morale which Dr. Claycomb passionately started working on and believes it is a continuous process. Secondly, he was tasked with developing sound financial practices for the college. In the years that Dr. Claycomb has been president, there have been strong audits for the college. Their third goal was to continue the effort to define the college as a legal entity that is separate from the Linn R-2 school system. These goals helped Dr. Claycomb successfully lead the college into what it is today.

In 2015, Dr. Claycomb was chosen as one of the few to receive the Missouri Pioneers in Education from the Missouri State Board of Education and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. This was awarded to him in acknowledgement of over fifty years of an outstanding career and contributions to public education. At the 2016 commencement at State Technical College of Missouri, Dr. Claycomb received an honorary degree from the college. Also at commencement, it was announced that the Information Technology Center would be renamed the Dr. Donald M. Claycomb Information Technology Center. Dr. Claycomb's wife Linda's statement explains why these awards were given, "This wasn't a job for Don Claycomb, Don lives and breathes this place. It's in his blood."

Dr. Claycomb will get to spend more time with his family now that he is retired. He will celebrate his 27th wedding anniversary this summer with his wife, Linda. She holds a doctorate and teaches nursing education at Columbia College at the Columbia and Lake of the Ozarks campuses. Dr. Claycomb has appreciated his wife understanding his job and the time it took him away from the family. Dr. Claycomb and Linda have five children and five grandchildren. He looks forward to spending more time with them. In addition to his family, Dr. Claycomb enjoys collecting antique tractors, reading books, and gardening. These hobbies will fill his days now that the new president has taken the helm of State Technical College of Missouri.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Dr. Claycomb on his retirement from State Technical College of Missouri after twenty-three years of commitment to the college, students, and community.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN
WILLIAM C. OSTENDORFF

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Captain William C. Ostendorff, who recently completed his second term as a Commissioner at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). After a varied and distinguished career as an engineer, legal counsel,

policy advisor, and naval officer, Captain Ostendorff now departs the NRC to return to teaching at the United States Naval Academy.

Prior to his appointment to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Captain Ostendorff served at the National Academies where he was the Director of the Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy. He was also the Director of the Board on Global Science and Technology. He came to the National Academies after serving as Principal Deputy Administrator at the National Nuclear Security Administration from April 2007 until April 2009. From 2003–2007, Captain Ostendorff was a member of the staff of the House Armed Services Committee. There, he served as counsel and staff director for the Strategic Forces Subcommittee with oversight responsibilities for the U.S. Department of Energy's atomic energy defense activities as well as the U.S. Department of Defense's space, missile defense, and intelligence programs.

Captain Ostendorff was an officer in the United States Navy from 1976 until he retired in 2002 with the rank of Captain. During his naval career, he served on six submarines, including command of the USS *Norfolk* from 1992–1995. While in the Navy, he also served as Director of the Division of Mathematics and Science at the United States Naval Academy. He holds a bachelor's degree in systems engineering from the United States Naval Academy, law degrees from the University of Texas and Georgetown University, and is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Captain Ostendorff for the duty and honor he has consistently displayed throughout his years of outstanding service to our nation. His unparalleled experience and knowledge of nuclear security and defense issues have made him an invaluable resource for our nation, and we are truly better off because of his service. I wish him all the best as he returns to the United States Naval Academy.

CELEBRATING THE GENERAL
MILLS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and honor General Mills for their 150th year of hard work, leadership and community service in the food and service sector. General Mills, then named the Minneapolis Milling Company, first began when Cadwallader Washburn opened his first flour mill in Minneapolis. John Crosby joined eleven years later and together they reorganized business practices that farmers deemed unfair. They soon won the Gold Medal at the international Miller's Exhibition, which inspired them to name their flour "Gold Medal". The company has since expanded to a highly successful multi-national food corporation that has also tried its hand in the restaurant, toy, and fashion industries.

In 1928, the name changed to General Mills. The same year the company had 5,800 employees with annual sales of \$123 million mostly due to their strongest products of Softasilk cake flour and Wheaties cereal. By 1928, General Mills was the largest flour mill-

ing company in the world. General Mills' diversification and technology allowed them to produce military equipment and dehydrated food for World War II mobilization efforts. By the 1990's, General Mills went international, competing in European and Mexican markets.

General Mills shares its wealth of food expertise through philanthropic work to increase food security, advance sustainable agriculture and protect our natural resources. In 2015, its foundation donated 20 million meals. General Mills strives to ensure the world's watersheds are restored and protected, and to increase the world's pollinator populations. General Mills has partnered with many non-profit organizations in pursuing these goals.

From Betty Crocker to the Pillsbury Dough Boy, General Mills is responsible for some of our most iconic food brands. Whether it is a box of Cheerios, a can of Crescent Rolls, or a bag of Gold Medal Flour, nearly every American household can claim to have a General Mills product. Without a doubt, General Mills will continue to innovate and develop offerings that meet our nation's palate preferences and nutritional needs. I am proud to represent the congressional district where General Mills was started and remains today. I congratulate General Mills and its hardworking employees for their accomplishments and lasting legacy.

HONORING MS. SANDY ELLES

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sandy Elles, the 2016 recipient of the Napa County Farm Bureau Distinguished Service Award in honor of her service as the Executive Director for the past fifteen years.

A native of Burlington, New Jersey Ms. Elles earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from American University and a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Planning from Rutgers University. After moving west to California, Ms. Elles built a successful career as both a business leader and public servant.

Ms. Elles worked with Blue & Gold Fleet in San Francisco from 1981 until 2001, while also serving on the Cotati City Council from 1990 to 1998. During that time, she received the prestigious American Planning Association award for Distinguished Leadership from an Elected Official, and the Sonoma County Conservation Council recognized Ms. Elles as the 1996 Environmentalist of the Year.

After retiring from Blue & Gold Fleet, Ms. Elles served as Executive Director of the Napa County Farm Bureau from 2001 until June 2016, providing guidance to Napa Valley farmers. Under her direction, the Napa County Farm Bureau won the California Farm Bureau Federation Golden State Hall of Fame Award for the best County Farm Bureau in both 2009 and 2010.

Ms. Elles has also been a leader in many other community organizations, including the Napa Chamber of Commerce and Jack L. Davies Napa Valley Agricultural Land Preservation Fund. She was also an instrumental figure in launching ferry service to the San Francisco Giants downtown ballpark from 1998 to 2000.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Elles has led an impressive career in both business and public service and has dedicated her time and skills to

ensuring the success of our community's agriculture industry. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND
SACRIFICE OF LORNE AHRENS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the life and sacrifice of a selfless public servant, Senior Corporal Lorne Ahrens. On July 7th, 2016, Lorne Ahrens was one of five Dallas officers fatally shot during a protest in downtown Dallas. The shooting was a calculated and senseless act of violence intended to tear our community apart. But the resilience of Lorne Ahrens' loved-ones will hold this community together. And they find their inspiration in the memory of the man they loved.

Lorne Ahrens was a Senior Corporal in the Dallas Police Department, where he served for fourteen years. He worked for a time in the dangerous and unpredictable job of serving warrants, where a simple knock on the door could escalate into a life-threatening situation.

Before moving to the Dallas area, Ahrens served in the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department for eleven years. For part of that time, he was a law enforcement technician, inputting and dispatching calls to the station, a demanding job that required fast thinking and professional calm. Colleagues in the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department remember Ahrens as a professional who supported his teammates, and as a joyous personality to work with.

The Los Angeles area was his home. He even played semi-professional football there. Ahrens moved to the Dallas area because he married Katrina Ahrens, a Texas girl and a fellow police officer. They moved to Texas together to start their beautiful family, which now includes a ten year old daughter and eight year old son.

Lorne Ahrens was a big man. He stood at 6'5" and weighed 350 pounds. Yet, anyone who saw him interact with his family knew the biggest thing about him was his heart. He loved to roll on the floor with his kids, making sure they had as much fun as possible when they were with their Dad. In fact, when he was not taking them fishing or to the movies, he often went to his daughter's school to talk about policing and safety.

Mr. Speaker, we lost a truly honorable public servant, friend, and father when Lorne Ahrens' life was taken. Today, I would like to thank him for his bravery and sacrifice, send my love to his family, and honor him in Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 404, on July 12, 2016, I was unavoidably detained off of the House floor.

Therefore, I was unable to cast my vote on the motion to adjourn.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

MAJOR GENERAL ALLEN E.
BREWER

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major General Allen E. Brewer, the retiring Assistant Adjutant General of the Mississippi Army National Guard. Through General Brewer's role as Assistant Adjutant General, he is responsible for developing and implementing all programs and policies impacting the Mississippi Army National Guard, which consists of nearly 10,000 citizen soldiers.

General Brewer was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Field Artillery, on July 16, 1979, through the Officer Candidate School, Mississippi Military Academy. He has served in command and staff positions at every level, including: Company A, 2d Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group; Battalion Commander, 2d Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group; Commander, 154th Regional Training Institute; Deputy Commander, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team in Kalsu, Iraq from April 2005 to March 2006; and Commander, Special Operations Detachment—South, in Afghanistan from November 2011 to March 2012.

I was privileged to serve with Major General Brewer during our combat tour in Iraq in 2005. As Deputy Commander of the 155th Brigade Combat Team, Colonel Brewer was a trusted and respected member of the Brigade Leadership Team. His calm and confident demeanor earned him the respect and admiration of leaders and soldiers in the Dixie Thunder Brigade.

Major General Brewer has continued to use his effective leadership style to inspire and lead the soldiers of the Mississippi Army National Guard. He is a mentor and leader to a generation of soldiers in the Mississippi Army National Guard.

As Major General Brewer retires from his military career, I wish him the best in his future endeavors. I am confident Major General Brewer will continue to be a leader in the future. I am privileged to have been able to work with Major General Brewer and call him a friend and mentor.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. HARRY L.
SEAWRIGHT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the election of Reverend Dr. Harry L. Seawright as Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Rev. Seawright is the longtime pastor of the Union Bethel A.M.E. Church in Brandywine, Maryland.

A fourth-generation A.M.E., Rev. Seawright's first pastoral appointment was

with the Payne Memorial A.M.E. Church in Jessup, Maryland, followed by service to the Hemingway Temple A.M.E. Church in Washington, D.C. In 1986, Rev. Seawright assumed his position at Union Bethel A.M.E. Church, which he has served longer than any other pastor in the congregation's history.

During his three decades of service, Union Bethel has expanded dramatically and has a significant presence in the community. In addition to serving as Union Bethel's pastor, Rev. Seawright is the author of several books, including *More Than Bricks and Mortar: Building a Church without Losing Your Mind*, and *Don't Faint: Help for Hurting Pastors and their Families*. He earned his Bachelor's degree from Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina and his Master and Doctor of Ministry degrees from the Howard University School of Divinity.

Rev. Seawright has long been deeply involved in the community. In addition to serving as a spiritual leader, he is an entrepreneur, community leader, world traveler, author and family man. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing to him our congratulations on his election to this distinguished position and our gratitude for all he has done to touch the lives of others.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF LEONARD SUGGS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my friend and a true American patriot, Mr. Leonard Suggs.

Born in Cumberland County in 1945, Leonard never met a stranger. Everyone that ever has the pleasure of meeting him is left with a smile on their face. Leonard's warm personality lights up any room and his infectious humor often leaves everyone in stitches. Uncommonly kind, Leonard measures his success in life not by career accomplishments, of which there are many, but rather by the lives he touches and his connections with friends, neighbors, and especially the soldiers stationed at Ft. Bragg.

Throughout his lifetime, Leonard Suggs has constantly devoted his time in the service of others and he does everything he can to make the world a better place. By staying actively involved in the Fayetteville community, Leonard has created a legacy for which we all are grateful. As an unrelenting supporter of our men and women in uniform, Leonard has served as Bragg Special Activities Committee Secretary Treasurer for nearly 30 years. I am convinced you will never find a more patriotic American who is so committed to helping our soldiers and their families.

Leonard Suggs was recently diagnosed with a terminal form of cancer and has elected to stop receiving treatment in preparation to leave this Earth in peace. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Suggs family as we celebrate and honor this remarkable man. It is my hope that Leonard lives out the remainder of his days in the comfort of the Lord knowing that while his time on Earth may be nearing an end, his legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of all of those he touched.

I will personally always cherish the time I have spent with Leonard at Ft. Bragg and visiting our men and women in uniform around

the country. Leonard can always be counted on to make me laugh at the most inopportune moment and he always has a stick of Wrigley's chewing gum on hand when you are in a pinch.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring the life and legacy of my friend Leonard Suggs for his service to God, our country, and our community.

RECOGNIZING DR. SANTA J. ONO
AND MS. GWENDOLYN YIP

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, as a lifelong Cincinnati and a proud UC Bearcat, I wish to recognize Dr. Santa J. Ono and Ms. Gwendolyn Yip, respectively, President and First Lady of the University of Cincinnati, for their 4 years of dedication and commitment to the university.

Under President Ono's leadership, the University of Cincinnati has transformed into a premier academic institution and a public research powerhouse.

President Ono was primarily responsible for launching "Creating Our Third Century," an initiative that maps out the university's priorities for the future. As part of this initiative, the University of Cincinnati has invested \$100 million in academics, hiring 250 new faculty members over the past three years. They also executed an \$86 million renovation of Nippert Stadium and constructed a new, eco-friendly residence hall—Morgens Hall—that received three different Design Awards from the American Institute of Architects.

As the university itself continues to grow, so does its student population. For three consecutive years, the university has broken its enrollment records and has attained the largest enrollment in school history at 44,251 students. This spring alone, they awarded 6,445 degrees to 6,351 graduates.

In 2013, the Washington Center recognized UC as the Public University of the Year, "a shining example of how universities are taking the traditional curriculum model and incorporating study-away internship experiences that teach self awareness, community engagement, and life-long leadership skills."

All of these accolades are a great testament to President Ono's leadership and his commitment to making UC the #HottestCollegeInAmerica.

I'm sad to see him go, but I know that his charisma and vision will have a lasting impact on present and future Bearcats.

I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING MS. KATHLEEN KANE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathleen H. Kane, the

Executive Director of the Sonoma County Community Development Commission, upon her retirement from an impressive career in affordable housing and community development that has spanned 30 years.

Ms. Kane, a New Jersey native, completed her Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies and a Certificate of Proficiency in French at Franklin & Marshall College before administering federally-funded programs for municipalities in Vermont between 1986 and 1991.

Ms. Kane then joined the Sonoma County Community Development Commission (CDC) in 1992, and has held a number of positions during her 24 years with the CDC. She joined the office as a supervisor of the Housing Rehabilitation loan and grants programs, and served as the Community Development Manager before assuming her current position as the CDC's Executive Director. Throughout her time with the CDC, Ms. Kane has overseen the administration of federal, state and local funds for affordable housing, homelessness, and community development activities while tirelessly working to improve our community through redevelopment.

As an unwavering advocate of social justice, Kathleen is renowned among her peers for her intelligence, speed, and determination to improve the lives of those in need in our community. During her tenure with the CDC, she has worked to create 1,211 new apartments and 250 new ownership properties in Sonoma County, with several hundred more currently under development. Ms. Kane also sits on the Sonoma County Workforce Investment and Upstream Investments boards and the California Association of Housing Authorities. She has served the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials as an executive board member since 2004 and the Northern California/Nevada Executive Directors Association as Treasurer since 2009.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Kane has dedicated her career to creating safe, secure, and healthy housing for the people of Sonoma County. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today and extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement and many happy memories to come with her husband, Bob, and children, Christopher and William.

IN HONOR OF SAMUEL BEAMON

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate one of Waterbury's finest, Samuel K. Beamon, Sr.

On Saturday, July 30, 2016, Sam Beamon will become the first Waterburian and African-American to receive UNICO National's John Basilone Freedom Award. Even though UNICO was founded in Waterbury, CT in 1922, it had yet to bestow this prestigious award on one of its native sons.

A graduate of W.F. Kaynor Technical High School in Waterbury, Sam enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1965 and was deployed to South Vietnam. He became a helicopter mechanic, crew chief, and aerial gunner, and he flew more than 320 combat missions. Sam earned numerous awards while in

the Marine Corps including 16 Air Medals and Combat Air Crew Wings, the Combat Action Ribbon, Navy and Presidential Unit Citations, and the Good Conduct Medal.

After returning home, Sam worked at Pratt & Whitney before answering the call to service again—but this time, as a police officer. In 1970, he joined the Waterbury Police Department. There, Sam continued to be an effective leader and break down racial barriers. He was the first Black Accident Investigator, radar operator and instructor, and member of the SWAT Team. He retired from the Police Department in 1998 with the rank of Lieutenant.

He wrote about his time in the Marine Corps in his book, *Flying Death: The Vietnam Experience*. He became active in Waterbury's veterans' network. His decades of work made him a natural choice to replace Colonel John Chiarella as chairman of the Waterbury Veteran's Memorial Committee in 2014. I have worked closely with Sam on a number of veterans' issues, and his tenacity, hard work, and winning smile are instrumental in his ability to advocate for his fellow veterans.

Sam's commitment to improving the lives and welfare of others extends well-beyond his involvement in veterans' organizations. A man who has lived through some of the most divisive times in our country's history, Sam seeks to inspire and unite today's youth. He understands the adversity some of our youth face in overcoming social, political, and economic barriers, but knows it can be done with hard work, a positive attitude, and a sharp moral compass. He has mentored countless students about the value of education, and what it means to believe in one's country, and answer the call to service. For Sam, his call to service and leadership capabilities extended beyond his military career. It meant giving back to Waterbury, the city that gave him so much. A leader in every sense of the word, I had the distinct honor of recognizing him at our Black History Month ceremony in Waterbury this past February. His remarks were touching; a perfect blend of self-reflection, humility, and his ironic sense of humor.

While Sam may be the first non-Italian to receive the John Basilone Freedom Award, I wonder if UNICO heard the story about how he found a way to visit his good Italian friend Colonel Chiarella in the hospital. When hospital staff told Sam that only immediate family was allowed to visit the Colonel, Sam didn't miss a beat. He told them that he was the Colonel's brother.

But this story perfectly encapsulates just who Sam is: he is the man who will stand by your side, offering his unwavering support when you need him. To veterans across the State of Connecticut and his family and friends in the City of Waterbury, Sam is a man of conviction, honor, and leadership. Sam is more than the countless accolades that serve as a testament to his selfless spirit. His infectious positive energy brings joy to the people around him. He is a friend and a confidante for whom I have the utmost respect.

I could not be any prouder of my dear and longtime friend. There is no one more deserving of such a prestigious award. I know Sam will tease me for giving him so much praise, but I will not let his humble attitude prevent me from properly honoring and recognizing him. Congratulations on your award, Sam.

RECOGNIZING GRANT BAKER, BENJAMIN GILES, DYLAN ROGERS, AND COURTNEY THOMPSON

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Grant Baker, Benjamin Giles, Dylan Rogers, and Courtney Thompson for their hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Sixth District as interns in my Washington, D.C. office for the summer of the 114th Congress, Second Session.

The work of these young men and women has been exemplary and I know they all have bright futures. They served as tour guides, interacted with constituents, and learned a great deal about our nation's legislative process. I was glad to be able to offer this educational opportunity to these four and look forward to seeing them build their careers in public service.

All four of our interns have made plans to continue their educational careers back in Colorado and throughout the United States. I am certain they will continue in their great success and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Grant Baker, Benjamin Giles, Dylan Rogers, and Courtney Thompson for their service this summer.

HONORING DALLAS AREA RAPID TRANSIT POLICE OFFICER BRENT THOMPSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and sacrifice of Dallas Area Rapid Transit Police Officer Brent Thompson. Officer Thompson tragically lost his life during the tragic shooting in Dallas on July 7, 2016. He was the first DART police officer to be killed in the line of duty since DART first formed a police department in 1989.

Officer Thompson was hailed as a "great officer" and one who had served the DART Police Department admirably since joining in 2009. His wife, who he had married just weeks before his death, regarded Officer Thompson as "the most amazing, caring, loving, selfless man" she has known. He is the father of six wonderful children, all of whom will carry on his legacy with his passing.

Some know Officer Thompson as the veteran officer who bravely charged at the shooter in an attempt to stop him during his rampage. Others know him as a former Marine who helped train and mentor local police in Afghanistan and Iraq. However, all now know Officer Thompson as the brave officer who gave his life in the defense of his fellow citizens in Dallas.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud by the way our nation has come together during this difficult time to honor Officer Thompson and the four other officers who lost their lives that day. Today, I would like to thank Officer Thompson for his bravery and sacrifice, and I join with my con-

stituents in expressing my incredible gratitude and appreciation for all that Officer Thompson has done for Dallas and the great State of Texas.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROEPER SCHOOL

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of The Roeper School. This anniversary is a reflection of the hard work of the students, faculty and staff of The Roeper School that have established a legacy of educational excellence which continues to this day.

Ever since George and Annemarie Roeper founded The Roeper School in 1941, it has been a leader in gifted education. George and Annemarie were refugees from Germany and witnessed first-hand the full measure of the human cost of Hitler's Third Reich. They dedicated their lives to creating an environment in which a powerful few would never again be able to impose their will upon an unchallenging majority. The Roeper School has been known for educating and empowering children at every level and instilling the attitudes, values and skills that will enable them to be leaders in the community. The school the Roepers founded continues to be a highly valued resource for gifted education, consulting on educational projects as varied as the creation of Children's Television Workshop, to the publications of the President's Council on Gifted Education.

The Roeper School continues to fulfill its mission: educating and inspiring gifted students to think as individuals and engage as a community with compassion for each other and this world. Their current "no cut" policy allows all students to participate in sports they wish to play. Roeper students pursue a challenging curriculum in math, science, arts and technology that prepares them for college and beyond. The Roeper School has a dedication to diversity, democracy, and community service that dates to its founding and is still very present today. Armed with a first class education, Roeper graduates have gone on to make extraordinary contributions to our society in every imaginable field of study and work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the 75th anniversary of The Roeper School. For 75 years, The Roeper School has supported students' academic, intellectual, emotional and social growth and we wish them many more successful years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during roll call vote number 434 on July 13, 2016. I would like the record to reflect that on roll call vote number 434 I would have voted YES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5538) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes:

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chair, I want to make a statement regarding the passage of H.R. 5538, the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017. Specifically I would like to make a statement about my amendment, Grayson Number 113. My amendment simply put the House on record of supporting a final funding amount of \$27,191,000 for the National Estuary Program and Coastal Waterways. It does so by removing and then reapplying \$468,000 within the \$2.5 billion appropriation for the environmental programs and management account within the Environmental Protection Agency.

The report accompanying this bill originally called for \$26,723,000 for the National Estuary Program and Coastal Waterways, which is \$468,000 below both the Senate's proposed appropriations level and the President's request for fiscal year 2017. Hence, the amount specified in my amendment.

The National Estuary Program and Coastal Waterways subaccount within the EPA does important work, including work in my State, especially on the Atlantic Coast. This program addresses ocean acidification, seeks to remove coastal watersheds, furthers the National Estuary Program's restoration goals, and assists in the implementation of the very important Gulf of Mexico hypoxia action plan.

This past March, in Central Florida, the Indian River Lagoon, which has been part of the National Estuary Program since 1990, experienced the worst fish kill in the history of the watershed. This fish kill is the result of hypoxia, caused by a recent algae blooming in the lagoon. Nobody knows how many fish died. And what's worse, nobody understands how "brown tide," the algae which caused the hypoxia, and is typically found in salty water, got into the Indian River Lagoon. With ecological disasters like this, we should be moving to fully fund the President's request.

Part of the funding for this program is used to try to overcome the hypoxia situation that has arisen in the Indian River Lagoon, while learning what happened, and more importantly, how to return the lagoon to a healthy ecosystem. This is just one of the 28 estuaries funded by this program, located along the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts.

The estuarine regions of the United States comprise just 12 percent of land area of the United States, but they contain 43 percent of the U.S. population and provide 49 percent of all U.S. economic output. The economic value of coastal recreation alone in the United States—beach going, fishing, bird watching, snorkeling, diving, and so on—has conservatively been estimated by NOAA to be between \$20 billion and \$60 billion annually.

Clearly, the \$468,000 increase in funding for the National Estuary Program and Coastal Waterways will result in real returns for the American economy, an enhanced quality of life for the American people, and a healthy ecosystem which supports endangered and threatened species. I thank Chairman CALVERT and my colleagues for their support of my amendment.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR.
JOE OSCAR ERNI

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Mr. Joe Oscar Erni, who passed away last summer at his home in Sun City Center, Florida. Joe lived the quintessential American story—one that personified the Greatest Generation.

Joe was raised on an Indiana dairy farm and studied at Purdue University. When World War II broke out, he traded in his textbooks for a uniform, serving in the Pacific as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Joe served his country with distinction as an aerial spotter for field artillery, having been awarded the Air Medal, with four bronze oak leaves, for his service in combat operations.

Following the war, Joe completed his education at Hanover College, and soon went on to marry the love of his life Elizabeth “Betty” Rodgers in May of 1948. Joe became a venerable part of his community while managing the New Albany Inn for 25 years, which led to his title of President of the Indiana Hotel/Motel Association. He cared deeply for his community and led many philanthropic efforts. He became the 1956 Chairman of the Floyd County March of Dimes, and served on the Floyd Memorial Hospital Board of Directors. Joe was a humble man whose life impacted everyone he touched in an extraordinary way. He cared deeply for so many people, especially his wife Betty, his three children, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Everywhere Joe went, he made friends with ease due to his gentle and generous spirit. Joe will be remembered for his exceptionally kind heart, his loving personality, and his tremendous service to his community and our country. I was proud to call Joe a friend and a relative, and I will miss his presence in our family.

Thank you, Joe, for your years of dedication and service. My thoughts and prayers are with your family and friends.

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress we know well, perhaps bet-

ter than most, how blessed our nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country,” and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said:

Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated. That is why today I rise to pay tribute to six extraordinary young persons for their service to my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas and to the American people. They are: Stephanie Gomez from the University of Houston; Bunyad Bhatti from the College of New Jersey; Sara Ali from the University of California at Berkeley; Ashley Hogan from Texas Tech University; George Brewster from Texas Southern University; and Jeremy Dang from Georgetown University.

Mr. Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism these wonderful young people brought to my office and those interning in the offices of my colleagues help keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

Because of persons like them the future of our country is bright and its best days lie ahead. I wish them all well.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that such thoughtful, committed young men and women can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great, good, and forever young.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HONORING MR. TIM TESCONI

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tim Tesconi upon his induction into the Sonoma County Farm Bureau’s Hall of Fame for his 43 years of service to our local agriculture community and commitment to preserving agricultural land throughout our county.

A third generation Sonoma County resident, Mr. Tesconi grew up on a dairy farm in Santa

Rosa and was a Future Farmer of America (FFA) during his time at Santa Rosa High School. He later went on to earn his Bachelor of Science degree from California State University, Chico and completed graduate work in Journalism at the University of Missouri, Columbia before dedicating his professional life to Sonoma County’s agriculture community.

Mr. Tesconi has held a number of positions during his impressive career that spanned over four decades. For 33 years Mr. Tesconi worked as an agriculture reporter for the Santa Rosa Press Democrat. Mr. Tesconi’s outstanding coverage of the North Bay farming community made him a household name and led to his appointment to multiple local boards including the 4-H Foundation of Sonoma County, Sonoma County Farm Trails, and the Santa Rosa Junior College Ag. Trust. For the last 10 years of his career, Mr. Tesconi worked as the Community Relations Coordinator and later the Executive Director of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau. His dedication to our agricultural and wine communities has strengthened our Sonoma County community as a whole.

Mr. Tesconi is admired by his peers for his unrivaled depth of knowledge, passion, and unwavering advocacy on behalf of our agriculture community.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Tesconi has spent his entire career working to strengthen and preserve agriculture’s role as the backbone of our local economy, natural landscapes, and way of life in Sonoma County. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ALFRED LOMELI

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of a longtime Contra Costa resident, Mr. Alfred Lomeli.

At an early age, Al committed to his passion for serving others by making his first attempt to join the Armed Forces. When he was turned down for being too young, he returned at the age of 18, after his graduation from Alhambra High School, and joined the Marines. Upon joining the Marines in September 1944, Lomeli and his division were the first to land on Peleliu, a tiny island in the western Pacific Ocean. While the mission was expected to only last a few days, the fighting dragged on through November and led to heavy American casualties. Al and his brother Raul’s experiences in the Pacific Theater are the subjects of a book written by Al’s daughter Rhonda entitled “Semper Fi! Marine.”

Al’s time in the Marines further shaped his commitment to service and to those he loved. After meeting his wife Guadalupe and settling in the Bay Area, Al began his career in finance that ultimately led him to the county treasurer-tax collector’s office, which he was to in 1978. He also served as president of the National Association of County Treasurers and Finance Officers and the California Association of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors.

Al’s dedication to his job, his family, and his community was admirable. Al passed away on June 26, 2016. He will be missed sincerely by

those who had the pleasure of knowing him, including his wife Patsy; daughters Celine, Gisele, and Rhonda; sons Jeffrey, Charles, and Lawrence; and dozens of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

IN RECOGNITION OF NEW BETHEL
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH INCORPORATED

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Columbus, Georgia as the church's membership and leadership celebrate 142 years.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1874; 87 years after Richard Allen organized the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1787. It is believed the church seat was moved several times from 1874 to 1927. It is recorded that within the 53 years less than 20 pastors were appointed to Bethel. During the years of 1927 to 1930 the membership of Bethel ranged from 50 to 80. By the year 1932, the church membership had increased to 220.

Ephesians 4:16 states "from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love." Through the blessings of God, New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church has grown spiritually, numerically, and materially, for the last 62 years.

In 1954, a new building was assembled under the leadership of Rev. R. L. Tyson (deceased), thus Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was renamed New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. As the church's congregation grew in numbers and in spirit it also grew in size. Between the years of 1965–1998, God blessed New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church with several architectural additions to the church, to help accommodate its growing flock. By the grace of God, New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was bestowed the honor of hosting the 92nd Session of the Southwest Georgia Annual Conference, in 1988.

New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church has been blessed to have several anointed guests, and guest preachers such as the first female minister, Rev. Varnette Green (deceased), who served as the guest Revivalist at the Youth Revival, in 1987, and Bishop Donald George Kenneth Ming, who preached the unadulterated word of God in June 1993, at the church's first family and Friends Day. In June 2002, under the righteous leadership of Rev. Bruce Francis, New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church celebrated its 127th Church Anniversary and some of the distinguished guests in attendance included Congressman SANFORD BISHOP and spouse, Mrs. Vivian C. Bishop, District Staff Member, Mrs. Elaine Gillispie and Councilor Evelyn Woodson.

It gives me great honor to recognize New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, a holy vessel guided by the exceptional leader-

ship of Rev. Richard A. Yancey. Like myself, Reverend Yancey is a distinguished member of Kappa Alpha Ksi Fraternity Incorporated. He is also an influential figure in the Columbus community, who has dedicated the last 26 years of his life to teaching the word of God.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join my wife and me along with the 730,000 citizens of the 2nd Congressional District in congratulating and honoring New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church for 142 years of faithful service to God and humanity.

RECOGNIZING KAYLEE GRANT,
SPENCER LONG, RYAN TILLMAN,
AND DOUGLASS QUIRK

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kaylee Grant, Spencer Long, Ryan Tillman, and Douglass Quirk for their hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Fourth District as interns in my Washington, DC office for the Summer 2016 session of Congress.

The work of these young men and women has been exemplary and I know they will have a bright future ahead of them. They learned a great deal about our nation's legislative process and served as tour guides and interacted with constituents. I was glad to be able to offer this educational opportunity to them and look forward to seeing them build their careers in public service.

Kaylee, Spencer, Ryan and Douglass plan to continue pursuing their college degrees at the end of their internships and I wish them the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Kaylee Grant, Spencer Long, Ryan Tillman, and Douglass Quirk for their service this Summer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 448, on July 13, 2016, I was unavoidably detained off of the House floor. Therefore, I was unable to cast my vote on an amendment offered by Rep. KING (R-IA) to H.R. 5538.

Had I been present, I would have voted YES.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. PHYLLIS
ROULLIER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Phyllis Roullier, a longtime resident of Belleville, Michigan and an original Rosie the Riveter. Phyllis was born on August 24, 1924 and has lived her full life as the cher-

ished matriarch of her family, and an American hero.

Phyllis was among the trailblazing women who stepped up during World War II to fill the industry positions traditionally held by men. Collectively nicknamed "Rosie the Riveter", these inspiring women entered the workforce with grace and gusto to build planes, tanks and other armaments that sustained the war effort and kept American industry afloat. Phyllis was 18 when she started working at the Willow Run Bomber Plant in Ypsilanti dimpling airplane skins. She recalls carpooling to work with other women from Detroit and having to pool gas stamps in order to make it to work every day. To this day, Phyllis proudly recalls the remarkable contributions of the Rosies at Willow Run, who produced more aircraft every month than Imperial Japan did in a year, earning Willow Run, and the area surrounding southeast Michigan, worldwide fame as the center of America's "Arsenal of Democracy".

The contributions of Phyllis and the original Rosie the Riveters made victory in World War II possible, and their patriotism and hard work will forever remain part of the American story. They instilled a newfound hope in their communities, embodying positivity in a time of great turmoil and uncertainty, and inspired a social movement that forever redefined the role of women in the workplace. The number of working women in the United States increased to 20 million in 1944, and has never since fallen to pre-war levels. Phyllis and her fellow Rosies paved the way for generations to follow.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Phyllis Roullier for her contributions to the war and her role in inspiring generations of American women. Her story is one that embodies the best of American values and spirit and one that we will continue to share with our children and grandchildren for decades to come. The values that Phyllis and the Rosies embodied—patriotism, bravery and resolve—are ones we all must strive to emulate. We salute the Rosies for their contribution to American history. Their legacy will forever remind us that we all have the power to do something more for our community and our country.

RECOGNIZING 2016 "PAUL BUNYAN
SERVICE ABOVE SELF AWARD"
YOUTH WINNER FONG MOUA

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before you today to recognize Mr. Fong Moua of Wausau, Wisconsin for his exceptional commitment to our community.

Mr. Moua is the youth recipient of the Wisconsin 7th Congressional District's 2016 "Paul Bunyan Service Above Self Award," which seeks to recognize an individual who has gone above and beyond to serve their community. I am privileged to award this young man in recognition of his unparalleled service to our district.

Mr. Moua was born in a refugee camp in Thailand. He called that camp home until his parents made the journey to the United States when he was seven years old. He began

learning to read and write at the age of 10. Fong dedicated his young life to helping others. In 2014 he was elected by his peers to lead the H.M.O.N.G youth program—a program designed to help at-risk youth by teaching and encouraging other young students the importance of volunteerism and preserving the Hmong culture. He organized a local class to teach Hmong youth how to read and write in Hmong, and also organized and led the Qhuas Peb Lub Npe Hmoob Zoo, a cultural event planned entirely by the Hmong youth for the community.

In addition to his leadership position, Mr. Moua has spent countless hours bettering the community through mentoring and volunteering at local organizations such as the Hmong American Center, Inc., where he assisted with the Hmong New Year celebration, and Dream Big: 2056 Scholarship Fundraiser that provides opportunities for Hmong students to pursue an education.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Mr. Moua on his volunteer accomplishments and being named the youth Paul Bunyan Award winner. His selfless demeanor in which he answers the call to serve in our district is truly valued.

A BILL TO ESTABLISH AN ELECTRONIC SYSTEM FOR TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION FOR THE GUAM CNMI VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce legislation that would authorize and establish an Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) for the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program, and direct revenue from the established system to fund CEP operations and staffing needs for ports of entry in Guam and the CNMI.

The regional Guam-CNMI VWP recognizes Guam's unique location in Asia, and the need to be more competitive for tourists from other Asian nations. With Guam's primary source of economic revenue being tourism from Asia, my legislation would address several issues that have hampered the industry and that continues to cost CBP millions of dollars annually in processing costs. The majority of foreign arrivals at Guam International Airport are those traveling under the Guam-CNMI VWP, and long immigration lines are a recurring issue due to limited staffing capacity when arrivals peak at Guam International Airport. At their peak—sometimes 1,200 passengers arrive when multiple flights arrive nearly simultaneously—the wait times at immigration can be as long as two and a half hours.

I recognize that there are complaints about long wait lines at other international ports of entries including Guam. However, many of our visitors come from Japan and South Korea. In fact, some Japan television shows and radio programs have mocked the long lines and wait times at Guam International Airport. The flight from Japan or South Korea is a little over 3 hours and, sadly, some of these visitors have waited about as long in line. That is unacceptable and runs counter to the President's goal of improving the arrivals process for inter-

national travelers arriving in the United States, as outlined in a memorandum to heads of executive departments and agencies on May 22, 2014. My legislation would work to address the problems that are occurring with long wait times at our respective port of entries. Tourism is critical to the economies of the region, and we cannot let an antiquated visitor entry system and inadequate staffing harm our economy.

Establishing an ESTA specific to the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program would help to address several issues faced by visitors arriving at Guam International Airport. First, the current process relies on a paper-based system which is cumbersome and only adds to the delays when arriving. The bill would allow CBP to automate that process and, as a result, save an estimated \$4 million annually that is used by CBP to process and file the paper forms. This is a common sense reform that will save the federal government money and improve the customer experience at Guam International Airport and ports of entry in the CNMI.

Admittedly, CBP has the authority to create an ESTA system for the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program; however, they do not have the authority to direct revenues collected from this automated process towards staffing at ports of entry in Guam and CNMI. As such, it is the consensus of tourism industry leaders and other stakeholders that there is an ultimate need for this legislation. I am informed that staffing has not increased in Guam since after the 9/11 attacks. The CBP staffing pattern was sufficient, but as the number of tourists grows on Guam the lines have also grown and the staffing has not kept up with demand. Making the visitor entry process into ports of entry in Guam and CNMI electronic is part of the solution, but additional staffing is still required especially since nearly 50% of our visitors are first-time visitors and cannot avail themselves of Automated Passport Control (APC) systems.

Earlier this month, Guam once again hosted the Electric Island Festival (EIF), a two-day event which brings together DJs from the Asia-Pacific region. Nearly 4,000 visitors attended EIF last year. I am both proud and humbled at the innovative programming that brings people from all over the world to Guam. Further, in late May and early June Guam hosted the Festival of the Pacific Arts (FestPac) a once every four years major regional cultural event, and is the largest gathering in which Pacific peoples unite to enhance their respect and appreciation of one another. A significant number of visitors came to Guam to participate in FestPac, and I appreciate the commitment of Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske to ensure there was adequate staffing at Guam International Airport. But that additional staffing was accomplished by approving extra overtime for employees which is a costly endeavor. Events like FestPac and EIF show the maturation and growth of Guam's tourism industry. Improving the processes and capabilities of our ports of entry to ensure a pleasant experience for our visitors is a top priority, and the solutions must be long-standing and sustainable. We cannot simply rely on overtime of employees to meet the current and emerging demands at our main international port of entry.

An ESTA for the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program is an innovative, sustainable, com-

mon-sense, and cost-saving solution that would not only save the federal government millions and increase resources to improve CBP capabilities. More importantly, it would ultimately modernize and improve a Visa Waiver Program that continues to benefit the people of Guam and CNMI. My bill would help ensure that federal policy enhances economic opportunities and development in our region instead of being an impediment.

HONORING MR. HERB LAMB

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Herb Lamb, whom the Napa County Farm Bureau posthumously named the 2016 Agriculturalist of the Year. Herb passed away on December 10, 2014, after 64 remarkable years.

A native of Vallejo, California, Herb moved with his family to Napa when he was eight. After graduating with a degree in Soil Science from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, he returned to Napa and started a vineyard consulting business. Herb and his business partner, Dennis Hansen, opened the Napa Valley Ag Supply in 1983, one of the first agricultural chemical businesses in the Napa Valley.

Herb knew Napa vineyards like the back of his hand. In his 35 years of work in agriculture, he became acquainted with nearly every vineyard manager and winery owner in our Napa community. From large landowners developing vineyard properties to local homeowners wanting a secret weapon to kill a backyard orchard pest, Herb offered everyone the same knowledgeable consideration and interest.

Herb volunteered his time often, and our community remembers him for his kindness coupled with a sincere desire to help. He was a supporter of the local 4-H and Future Farmers of America, a former member of the St. Helena Rotary, a Native Son of the Golden West, and served on the board of the Napa Valley Grapegrowers.

Mr. Speaker, Herb Lamb was known as a legend for his knowledge of the Napa Valley and commitment to our wine community, as well as his gentle and jovial spirit. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

BRIGADIER GENERAL JESSIE
"ROY" ROBINSON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brigadier General Jessie "Roy" Robinson, the retiring Director, Joint Staff, Joint Force Headquarters of the Mississippi National Guard. Through General Robinson's role as Director, Joint Staff, he provides oversight and strategic planning to ensure the overall readiness of the Mississippi National Guard. This vital position entails not only personal readiness, but maintaining readiness of facilities, equipment, supplies, funds, and supporting services.

General Robinson was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Infantry, on May 11, 1985, through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at the University of Southern Mississippi. He served as Commander of 890th Engineer Battalion, Commander of the 150th Engineer Battalion, Deputy Commander of the 168th Engineer Brigade, and Commander of the Camp McCain Training Site, Mississippi Army National Guard. He has also served as the Chief of Staff, Joint Force Headquarters, Mississippi Army National Guard, and as Assistant Adjutant General—Army, Joint Force Headquarters, Mississippi National Guard.

I was privileged to serve with Brigadier General Robinson during a combat deployment to Iraq in 2005. At the time, Lieutenant Colonel Robinson commanded the 150th Engineer Battalion at Forward Operating Base Dogwood in Iraq, which was on the Euphrates River in the corner of Al Anbar Province right across the river from Babil Province. During Lieutenant Colonel Robinson's command, the 150th Combat Engineer Battalion performed at an extremely high level while performing combat operations in a very high intensity area. Lieutenant Colonel Robinson displayed courage, leadership, and mentored the officers and noncommissioned officers of the 150th Engineer Battalion.

I have served with Brigadier General Robinson since our return, and he is a trusted mentor, respected by soldiers across the ranks of the Mississippi Army National Guard. As Director of the National Guard Association of Mississippi, he has been a champion for soldiers at the state and national level. I am privileged to consider Brigadier General Robinson a friend and mentor.

As Brigadier General Robinson retires from his military career, I wish him the best in his future endeavors. I know he will continue to be a leader for Mississippi's soldiers in his role as Executive Director of the National Guard Association of Mississippi.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for certain votes taken yesterday, Wednesday, July 13. If present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call Vote Number 453 (Passage of H. AMDT. 1342 to H.R. 5538 offered by Rep. GARY PALMER): NO.

Roll Call Vote Number 454 (Passage of H. AMDT. 1344 to H.R. 5538 offered by Rep. PAUL GOSAR): NO.

SUPPORTING H.R. 1655, THE COMMUNITY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1655, the Community Economic Opportunity Act.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson introduced America to the War on Poverty. Since then, Washington has created many anti-poverty programs, spent trillions of dollars, and made promises that failed to achieve well-intentioned goals. However, we realize it is just as difficult to lift people and families out of the poverty cycle today. It is not enough to speak of change in Washington; we must invite and support new ideas and open up our system to collaboration with those on the front lines in the fight against poverty. To that end, I proudly support H.R. 1655, the Community Economic Opportunity Act, which reauthorizes the Community Service Block Grant program that was last reauthorized in 1998. This program is currently present in 99 percent of US counties, and supports important programs that bring people out of the grip of poverty, improves the quality of our communities, and benefits our country and economy for the better. Together, we can help guide our nation into a new era of success and prosperity.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PUTTING MAIN STREET FIRST ACT: FINISHING IRRESPONSIBLE RECKLESS SPECULATIVE TRADING

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I introduced H.R. 5745, The Putting Main Street First Act: Finishing Irresponsible Reckless Speculative Trading.

The bill would levy a miniscule 0.03 percent tax on stocks, bonds and derivatives, which will discourage irresponsible high-speed trades that have no intrinsic value and that destabilize the market, which were the driving factors of the 2008 financial crisis and the 2010 flash crash.

How much does a 0.03 percent tax cost per trade? It amounts to 3 pennies on a \$100 trade.

How much does it raise? The Joint Tax Committee estimates the tax would raise \$417 billion over ten years.

These funds can be used to fund national priorities like free higher education so college students aren't stuck in never-ending debt. It can be used for job-creating infrastructure investments, or other national priorities.

Raising much-needed revenue to help average Americans is a big plus, but my primary reason for my bill is to end unhealthy speculation in the market and bring it back into balance. My goal is to stop Wall Street from gambling with Main Street's money.

Opponents of a financial transaction tax have already rolled out their same tired arguments: American retail investors and retirees would get hit with higher administrative fees as brokerages pass the cost of the tax down to them.

The opponents haven't read my bill, or if they have, they are ignoring what's in it.

The fear-mongers have always said a transaction tax will destroy the market. The truth is the U.S. had a transaction tax from 1914 until 1966. In 1932, the transaction tax was raised. When the increase in the tax was proposed, various newspaper headlines screamed our

markets would fail. Here are just two: "Stocks Tax Called Peril to Exchange" and "Panic Threat Seen in Taxes."

In 1932 the Dow Jones was at a low point of 41. In 1966, the Dow Jones was at nearly 1000 points. The sky did not fall.

The point is the large majority of trades today are made by computers with algorithms whose sole purpose is to execute thousands of trades in milliseconds to turn a quick buck.

Flash boys and high-frequency traders go so far as to locate their servers as close to an exchange as possible—all to gain a nano-second head start of a trade price. How can average Americans compete with that? They can't.

It's time to stop irresponsible trading, time to level the playing field, and it's time to put Main Street FIRST.

ENHANCING TREASURY'S ANTI-TERROR TOOLS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Chairman HENSARLING, Ranking Member WATERS, Chairman FITZPATRICK and Ranking Member LYNCH for the thoughtful and inclusive process that produced this set of bills. I would also like to thank Mr. PITTENGER and Mr. LYNCH for introducing this particular bill, Enhancing Treasury's Anti-Terror Tools Act (H.R. 5607).

I am especially appreciative that the bill includes language to help address the remittances crisis facing Somalia. I am fortunate to represent the largest Somali diaspora in our nation. I have heard from my constituents that they are unable to send funds to their loved ones back home. They can't send money for school fees or for medicine. They can't send funds to help a loved one start a business. Banks have stopped providing bank accounts to money services businesses that send funds to Somalia. Very few banks still provide wire transfers to the people of Somalia. As remittances from abroad are critical to the economy of this fragile nation, we are creating a humanitarian crisis which is also a national security problem.

We need to address this crisis. Money is going to flow: either in the system or outside of it. It is in everyone's best interest to provide Somali Americans the ability to safely and transparently send money to loved ones in their home nation.

This pilot program idea grew out of my frustration with finding a solution. I would like to see financial institutions and their regulators act proactively to keep the remittances pipeline open and safe. That's why I so appreciate Mr. PITTENGER and Mr. LYNCH including language I suggested requiring the Treasury Department to study the potential impact of a pilot program for humanitarian funds to Somalia.

Somalia is improving; it recently passed an Anti-Money Laundering Law and appointed an ambassador to the U.S. The U.S. has acknowledged the government of Somalia and for the first time in decades, has an ambassador to that nation. The need to address the

remittances crisis is urgent. I appreciate the Chairman, Ranking Member and my colleagues' commitment to addressing the remittances crisis which hinders Somalia's ability to become a stronger more functional nation.

COLLEGIATE BASEBALL NAMES
KATY ATHLETE JON
DUPLANTIER AS AN ALL-AMER-
ICA PITCHER

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Katy native Jon Duplantier, for being named as an All-America pitcher by Collegiate Baseball magazine.

Jon Duplantier graduated from Seven Lakes High School in 2013 and is currently a junior attending the great Rice University. Duplantier has been drafted and picked to pitch for the Arizona Diamondbacks. Duplantier was named the C-USA Pitcher of the Week three times, National Pitcher of the Week and has faced six nationally ranked teams. Duplantier has displayed great discipline and dedication. We are proud to have such talent representing our Katy community.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Jon Duplantier for his outstanding athletic achievements. We wish him success in his baseball career and look forward to rooting for him in the majors. Katy, Texas is proud of him.

FAA EXTENSION, SAFETY, AND SECURITY ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 818, the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016, specifies that in making a determination whether to grant or deny an application for designation under Sec. 2209, the Administrator may consider "homeland security."

Homeland Security consideration is intended to include consideration of applicants identified as potential targets by a Joint Terrorism Task Force. Joint Terrorism Task Forces serve as our nation's front line in the fight against domestic terrorism. They play an active role in identifying and investigating potential threats to certain activities where there are threats of injury to life, property or infrastructure—and in protecting communities across America from terrorist acts. Allowing targeted facilities to take pro-active steps to ensure the safety of their operations, employees and the public is critical in order to keep the homeland safe. If a facility or activity has been identified as a potential target area by a Joint Terrorism Task Force, I encourage the FAA to give ample weight to the JTTF designation when evaluating applications and give full consideration to the homeland security risks and potential threats originating from foreign, domestic, or

eco-terrorism that have been assessed by the task force.

This bill empowers and directs the FAA to protect those targeted facilities from the potential security risks that aircraft, including unmanned aircraft, can create. I believe this is important for counterterrorism efforts and for protecting America's communities and freedom. I encourage the FAA to give strong consideration to applicants identified as potential targets by a Joint Terrorism Task Force.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Number 452, I was not present at the time of the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Roll Call Vote No. 452.

HONORING KIRTANA CHORAGUDI FOR BEING THE SADD STUDENT OF THE YEAR

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kirtana Choragudi from Iron Mountain, Michigan, on being named the Students Against Destructive Decisions, or SADD, student of the year.

Founded in 1981, SADD is a peer-to-peer youth education and prevention organization focusing primarily on traffic safety.

Today, July 14th, SADD is holding an advocacy-training program here in Washington to develop students' skills in advocacy and leadership, as well as to educate them on how public policy can be used to encourage young people to make good decisions.

Kirtana and 13 other high school juniors and seniors from all over the country were selected to attend SADD SPEAKs after going through a very competitive selection process. These students were selected based on their experience and leadership qualities.

Northern Michigan is proud to have a student from one of our communities so dedicated to making the roads safer for all drivers. I commend all these young individuals for their efforts to make our roads safer.

RECOGNIZING MR. DON KOEHLER OF THE GEORGIA PEANUT COM- MISSION

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT, Mr. DAVID SCOTT; Mr. BISHOP; and Mr. ALLEN in the Georgia delegation to recognize, Mr. Don Koehler, Executive Director of the Georgia Peanut Commission.

August 1st, 2016 will mark 30 years since Mr. Koehler originally became the Executive

Director of the Georgia Peanut Commission, making him the longest serving Executive Director in the organization's 53 year history.

His 30 year tenure is quite impressive, especially as Mr. Koehler's position carries with it a lot of responsibility. The Georgia Peanut Commission advocates for Georgia's peanut farmers who produce more than half of the peanuts in the entire country and results in a huge economic impact to Georgia.

During his tenure as Executive Director, Mr. Koehler has been a critical player in the Georgia Peanut Commission's drive to educate people about the health benefits of eating peanuts. Additionally, he has been immersed in working for the successful passage in Congress of a new five year farm bill as well as drafting comments about the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Mr. Koehler has done an excellent job as Executive Director of the Commission and we want to thank him for his continued dedication to successfully growing Georgia's peanut industry and allowing the state to share its product with the rest of the nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF DON KOEHLER 30 YEARS WITH THE GA PEANUT COMMISSION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to extend heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Don Koehler, the Executive Director for the Georgia Peanut Commission, as he celebrates 30 years of service with this esteemed organization.

Born on a small livestock and row crop farm, in southwest Alabama, Don Koehler has had an interest in agriculture since childhood. His experience and knowledge of agriculture and the peanut industry influenced his decision to attend and graduate from Auburn University, in 1979, where he received his Bachelors of Science degree in Animal Science. The experience that he has accumulated from his childhood on the farm and years in the classroom ultimately led to his decision of pursuing a career in agriculture.

In 1986, Mr. Koehler accepted the prestigious honor in becoming the Executive Director for the Georgia Peanut Commission (GPC) and is currently the longest standing Executive Director in GPC history. Don is extremely passionate in helping to promote peanut research, particularly the peanut genome, as well as improving the production capacity of peanut farmers in Georgia and throughout the country.

Georgia peanut farmers are responsible for producing nearly half of the United States' peanut crops, and the production levels continue to increase annually. In fact, I'm proud to say that the 2nd Congressional District which I represent, is the largest producer of peanuts in the Nation. Since Don's induction as Executive Director, the production levels of the commodity have nearly tripled.

Under Don's leadership, the Georgia peanut industry led the nation in the export of peanuts globally; including China and Western Europe. In April 2016, 74,268 Metric Tons of peanuts and peanut products had been exported to

various regions of Asia including, China and Vietnam. The improvements of exporting relations of peanut to Asia have been tremendous. Last year Georgia peanut exports had a total value of \$81,592,245, which is a 530% increase over the previous year.

The state of Georgia certainly appreciates what Don has done in the peanut industry over his 30 year tenure. He has earned much deserved respect as a result of his leadership and contributions to the Georgia Peanut Commission as their Executive Director.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me, along with all those associated with Georgia peanuts in congratulating Mr. Don Koehler for everything he has done to improve and strengthen the peanut industry in Georgia and the peanut industry nationwide.

HONORING MANTECA CITY POLICE
CHIEF NICK OBLIGACION

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Manteca City Police Chief, Nick Obligacion, who announced his retirement after 24 years of service.

Nick was born in Fort Ord, California and was raised in Monterey County. He attended college at Monterey Peninsula College where he graduated with an Associate's Degree in General Education and a certificate in Electronic Technology.

Before working in Manteca, Nick was a Deputy Sheriff at Monterey County Sheriff's Department in Salinas. He received his basic certificate in 1989, and applied for the Police Officer position in Manteca in 1991 and began his first shift as an Officer in December of that year. Nick completed the Field Training Program in January of 1992 and was then released to patrol.

In addition to being recognized as Employee of the Month in 1992, Nick and his patrol canine, Barry, received several awards for their trial showings throughout the state of California. His commitment to excelling as an Officer was evident through his continued education and certification in many tactical areas of training.

Nick had a very long and successful career and was promoted to Police Sergeant in July of 2007 and ultimately to the position of Manteca Police Chief in January of 2012.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending the outstanding contributions made to law enforcement services in the City of Manteca by Chief Nick Obligacion and hereby wish him continued success in his retirement.

HONORING THE ROBERT MONDAVI
WINERY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Robert Mondavi Win-

ery, which today is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its groundbreaking by founder and winemaking pioneer Robert Mondavi.

Robert Mondavi embarked on an ambitious venture in 1966 to make our Napa Valley a world class wine region. Mondavi's winery became the first major winery built in the Napa Valley since the repeal of Prohibition in 1933. He carefully selected the historic To Kalon Vineyard as the site for his new winery to showcase the best qualities of Napa grapes and wines.

Mondavi selected architect Cliff May to design a winery inspired by California's historic missions. To enrich visitors' experience, the family began collecting art to fill the winery, including many works by the Californian sculptor Beniamino Bufano. The Robert Mondavi Winery soon became a cultural landmark in our community, hosting visitors for wine tastings and tours, as well as the first annual Summer Music Festival fundraiser for the Napa Valley Symphony in 1969.

The Robert Mondavi Winery has achieved great success in producing high quality wines and advancing the art of winemaking. The winery has been a notable leader in pioneering environmentally sustainable agricultural practices to preserve our valley's land for future generations. In a testament to its commitment to innovation, the Robert Mondavi Winery has worked with NASA to use advanced sensory technology in vineyard management. Moreover, the Robert Mondavi Winery has been a generous community partner, providing well-paying jobs to Napaans and giving back more than \$150 million to local charities in our Valley.

Mr. Speaker, the Robert Mondavi Winery has been a leading institution in our wine community for the past five decades and will continue to thrive with the dedication and support of its winemakers, owners, and staff. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor the winery here today.

PREFACE TO "THE RESCUE OF
THE SARAH D.J. RAWSON"

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, commencing first in 1848, the United States Life Saving Service was a federal government agency that grew out of private and local humanitarian efforts to create and man rescue stations along the coast. These outposts were often remote. The men stationed there took great pride in their deep commitment to save the lives of shipwrecked mariners and passengers, often against overwhelming odds. In 1874, life saving stations were added along the coast of Maine, Cape Cod, and the famed Outer Banks of North Carolina. In 1878, this network of stations was formally organized as a separate agency of the United States Department of the Treasury. In 1915, the Service formally merged with the Revenue Cutter Service to form the United States Coast Guard. These lonely, isolated outposts were always manned by the bravest of men who knew no fear, and who were dedicated to their sworn duty of rescuing seamen in distress. Their motto was "to always go, but not always return". Even now,

many stories are told about the daring rescues by such men, some admittedly embellished a bit for literary interest. Proudly beat the hearts today of all who can call themselves their descendants.

One of the most notable of these rescues occurred on a cold, blustery winter's night in February of 1905. The three-masted schooner, *Sarah D.J. Rawson*, two days out of Georgetown, South Carolina and bound for New York with a cargo of lumber, "stoved up" hard on Cape Lookout Shoals in a heavy winter squall. A complete report of the *Rawson* rescue appears at: <http://www.coastalguide.com/helmsman/rawson-rescue.shtml>. The names of the men who were attached to Life Saving Station, Cape Lookout and who participated in this rescue party were: William H. Gaskill ("Keeper"), Kilby Guthrie, Walter M. Yeomans (grandfather of the author's wife), Tyre Moore, John A. Guthrie, James W. Fulcher, John E. Kirkman, Calupt T. Jarvis, and Joseph L. Lewis—some of the bravest sons ever hatched out of Carret County homes. Each received a gold medal from the Service in recognition of their heroism in this rescue. During World War II, the U.S. Government made a request of these men to return their gold medals to support the war effort. The medals have never been reissued to the men or their families.

HISTORY OF SARAH D.J. RAWSON RESCUE

The 387-ton, three-masted schooner *Sarah D.J. Rawson*, with a crew of seven, sailed from Georgetown, SC for New York with a full cargo of lumber on 2 February 1905. While standing under short canvas in a SSE gale at 5:30 PM on the 9th, the vessel stranded in the breakers on the south side of Lookout Shoals. She became a total loss. As soon as the schooner struck the master gave orders to take in sail. While the crew performed this work, a heavy sea swept the decks and carried Jacob Hansen, a Norwegian seaman, into the surf. He soon disappeared.

The same sea struck the master and 3 other seamen. Only by the most desperate efforts, did they cling to the vessel. The schooner gradually worked onto the shoal and lay somewhat easier. The violent onslaughts of the sea, however, broke over her and soon carried away her boat. Then they swept the fore and aft deckhouses, her deck load of lumber and her spars. Powerless to do anything for the vessel, the crew sought refuge in the highest part of the wreck. Their situation appeared to be hopeless.

At Cape Lookout (NC) Life-Saving Station, about 9 miles northwest from the vessel, a vigilant lookout had been maintained during the day. A surfman remained constantly on watch while the keeper himself had twice visited the tower during the morning. A thick mantle of fog, however, covered the ocean and shut the doomed vessel from view. At noon, just as the lookout had been relieved, the keeper again climbed into the tower and at 12:05 PM, while scanning the sea with the glasses, he caught a glimpse of the schooner's topmost spars. Knowing from her bearings that she probably was upon the shoal, he immediately called away the lifeboat. Every member of the crew promptly responded.

Though nearly all the men were ill, there having been an epidemic of influenza at the station, not one shrank from what all knew would be a long and wearisome pull in wintry weather over 18 miles of rough sea. A light southwesterly breeze made for a favorable wind and allowed the surfmen to make sail. With 8 men at the oars, they were off to

the wreck within twenty-five minutes. At 4:00 PM they reached the scene of the disaster. The schooner lay upon her starboard side in the midst of the breakers. Her bowsprit, foremast, main topmast, and deck-houses were gone and her stern to mizzen rigging carried away. She was surrounded by wreckage and lumber. This pitching and beating flotsam threatened the safety of the lifeboat and the lives of its crew. Rawson's six remaining crewmen could be seen by the surfmen. Though the latter repeatedly attempted to make their way through the mass of debris, they could get no closer than about 200 yards, when they would be beaten back. The master of the schooner stated that he expected to see the lifeboat pitched end over end in the turbulent sea. This would have occurred, but for the cool and skillful management of the keeper and crew.

Night soon came and the life-saving crew anchored near the edge of the breakers. They hoped, that in case of the schooner's going to pieces, they still might be able to rescue some or all of the sailors. They maintained a vigilant lookout, frequently fending off fragments of wreckage that menaced their boat. After midnight, the wind increased in force and hauled to NW. With the weather still thick but much colder, the crew shifted the lifeboat to an anchorage about 500 yards to windward. The keeper stated that he did this so that should conditions worsen, they might be able to weather the shoal and put to sea. Throughout the long, tedious night the surfmen suffered greatly in their open boat from exposure, fatigue, and hunger. The keeper, however, maintained his post. He encouraged his crew and urged them not to fall asleep.

At dawn they returned to the wreck and found that, while her remaining masts had been swept away, a portion of the hull remained intact. This enabled the crew to survive the perils of the night. The sea was still running very high and the keeper decided to wait until the tide turned before attempting to rescue the crew. He had rightly judged that conditions would improve. About 1:00 AM the wind and sea moderated and the lifesavers pulled to a position about fifty yards to windward of the wreck. Here they anchored. By veering carefully upon the cable, and steadying the boat with the oars, they dropped in among the breakers and debris, as far as possible, and succeeded in throwing a heaving line on board the schooner. Then one of the seamen bent the line about his waist, jumped into the sea, and was hauled into the lifeboat. His companions followed his example, and, one by one, all hands were rescued—drenched, chilled, and nearly exhausted, but safe.

The surfmen removed their own oil coats and wrapped them about the shipwrecked men. They made the return trip to the station without mishap, arriving about 5:00 PM. The crew of the Rawson had been forty-eight hours without food or water. The lifesaving crew had spent twenty-eight hours in an open boat without food and their limbs cramped with cold. Lacking room to move about, their bodies ached from maintaining a sitting posture for so long. That the wrecked crew had not succumbed was due to the fact that the vessel lay nearly on her beam ends and afforded them something of a lee from the wintry NW wind.

The rescued men were furnished food and shelter at the station. Though there was clothing from the supplies of the Women's National Relief Association, this stock became exhausted. The surfmen supplemented it from their own stores. The master of the Rawson was cared for part of the time by a personal friend at anchor in Lookout Bight. No member of the crew had suffered serious injury, though one seaman was afflicted by

an attack of rheumatism and was transported upon a stretcher. On the 12th the revenue cutter Seminole arrived in Lookout Bight and the following day she took the crew of the Rawson on board and carried them to Wilmington, NC. The loss of one life at this disaster occurred a very short time after the vessel struck. It was impossible for anyone to lend a helping hand to the drowning man as he was carried to his death in the breakers.

The keeper discovered the Rawson at the first instant that she became visible at the station. No other eye sighted her, no one but the lifesavers went to the rescue. The shipwrecked men lost their boat soon after the vessel struck. Not many hours elapsed after the rescue before the vessel broke up and disappeared. All hands might have been lost. The fate of the Sarah D. J. Rawson and her crew would never have been known but for the unflinching heroism of the crew of the Cape Lookout Life-Saving Station. Each was subsequently awarded the Gold Lifesaving Medal for extreme and heroic daring in saving life from the perils of the sea. Those awarded for their rescue of the six crewman on Sarah D. J. Rawson included Keeper William H Gaskill, Surfmen Kilby Guthrie, Walter M. Yeomans, Tyre Moore, John A. Guthrie, James W. Fulcher, John E. Kirkman, Calupt T. Jarvis, and former Surfman Joseph L. Lewis.

HONORING DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICER PATRICK ZAMARRIPA

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dallas Police Officer Patrick Zamarripa. Officer Zamarripa was one of the five dedicated law enforcement officers who were slain during the tragic shooting in Dallas on July 7, 2016.

Officer Zamarripa had a long and decorated career serving our nation. Before joining the Dallas Police Department in 2011, Officer Zamarripa served three tours in Iraq as active duty for the U.S. Navy and then an additional 5 years of military service in the reserves. He was the recipient of numerous awards for his years of service, including the National Defense Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

Officer Zamarripa has been described as an individual who has faithfully and honorably served his country. His five years of service with the Dallas Police Department was no different and the city lost a great advocate and defender with his passing.

It is incredibly heartbreaking for any law enforcement officer to lose their life. It is just as tragic to learn of the family and friends who those officers will leave behind. He was a family man with a 2-year-old daughter and a 10-year-old stepson. It is hard to imagine the pain and suffering that the family must be experiencing at this crucial moment.

Mr. Speaker, there are no words that can sufficiently describe the loss to the community with each passing. We are all incredibly grateful for Officer Zamarripa's service to our country and courage in the face of adversity, and our thoughts are with the friends and family he left behind.

TRIBUTE TO THE REV. DR. FRANK MADISON REID III

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the recent election as Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church of the Rev. Dr. Frank Madison Reid III, the longtime pastor of the historic Bethel A.M.E. Church of Baltimore. Dr. Reid is a beloved member of the Baltimore community who has faithfully led his congregation for more than 28 years.

Dr. Reid's elevation to Bishop in the year of the Church's 200th anniversary follows the tradition of his father and grandfather, who were elected Bishop in 1972 and 1940, respectively. This is the first time in the denomination's history that members of three generations have been elected to the position.

Before his appointment, Dr. Reid earned a Bachelor's degree in History and African American studies from Yale University in 1974 and a Doctorate from the Harvard Divinity School in 1978. He has previously served congregations of the A.M.E. Church in Los Angeles, California and Charlotte, North Carolina. This past February, Dr. Reid was one of the faith leaders from Baltimore who met with Pope Francis and received his blessing for their work to bring peace and healing to their communities in the wake of the death of Freddie Gray and the ensuing turmoil.

Dr. Reid will serve as Bishop with great devotion and distinction. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing to him our congratulations on his election to this esteemed position and our appreciation for the tireless work he has done on behalf of congregations in Baltimore and throughout our nation.

HONORING MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER IN SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, Illinois for earning the American Hospital Association's 2016 McKesson Quest for Quality Prize.

The Quest for Quality Prize is the top national honor for healthcare quality and safety. Each year, the American Hospital Association recognizes one hospital in the nation that has excelled in its commitment to reliable, safe, patient-centered care.

Since 1970, Memorial Medical Center has been dedicated to exceptional patient care, education, and research. As a teaching hospital, Memorial Medical Center has established itself as a leader in training tomorrow's healthcare professionals, making it a deserving recipient of this year's award.

Memorial Medical Center is the first hospital in Illinois to receive the Quest for Quality Prize, and I know it will continue to serve as one of our state's most prominent hospitals. I am proud of all those that have helped make Memorial Medical Center the standard for exceptional healthcare in Illinois. Congratulations on this well-deserved distinction.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL USHER FOR HIS
OUTSTANDING SERVICE AS
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF MARION
GENERAL HOSPITAL

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Usher on the occasion of his retirement. From 2008 to 2016, Paul has served as President and CEO of Marion General Hospital in Marion, Indiana. In his eight years as the system's President, Paul has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to superior patient care and ensuring Marion General Hospital's growth and success. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are forever grateful for Paul's dedication to making Marion General Hospital a great place to work, practice medicine, and receive exceptional health care.

Before taking the role as President and CEO at Marion General, Paul had a long history of devoting his time to bettering the lives of Hoosiers and improving his community. Paul is a native of Marion, Indiana and graduated from Ball State University where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. Shortly after graduating he received a Certified Public Accountant certificate and quickly emerged to be a leader within the financial community. He became a member of both the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Indiana CPA Society. Paul's ambition and passion led him to continue growing in his role in the financial world and his expertise led him to the healthcare field. He became a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE), the nation's leading professional society for healthcare leaders, as well as a Fellow of the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA), the nation's leading membership organization for healthcare financial management executives and leaders, which he has been a member of for nearly 44 years and previously served as President of the Indiana Chapter.

Though Paul has an extensive and impressive background, his most notable accomplishments are connected to his work at Marion General Hospital. For 34 years, he has been an integral part of making Marion General the successful organization it is today. Prior to taking the role as CEO and President in 2008, Paul served the healthcare system as Chief Financial Officer. Throughout his tenure at the helm of the longtime community institution, Paul has emphasized relationships as the hospital's key to success. This emphasis cultivated a culture of exceptional patient care and made it a wonderful place to work. In 2012, Marion General Hospital received the prestigious honor as a Fire Starter hospital from the Studer Group. A Fire Starter hospital is one which ignites the flame of excellence by embracing the foundational principles of working together, developing relationships, caring for one another and extending true compassion to others. Since its beginning in 1896, Marion General Hospital has grown immensely and because of strong leadership from people like Paul, the hospital continues to provide exceptional healthcare to the people of Grant County over a century later.

Paul's commitment to the highest standard of care and success as a leader has not gone

unnoticed; he has received numerous accolades. Most notably, Paul was awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash (2016) for his exceptional leadership, devotion to his organization, and making significant contributions to the great Hoosier state. He also received the Stanley A. Pressler Award from the Indiana Healthcare Financial Management Association, the most honorable award bestowed by the Indiana HFMA chapter.

Paul has devoted himself to attaining the vision he set out for the hospital when he began his career with Marion General, and over the past several years he has achieved that vision. He leaves behind a strong legacy at Marion General Hospital and throughout the Hoosier community, especially Grant County. On behalf of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District, I'd like to congratulate Paul on his remarkable career and extend a huge thank you for all of the wonderful contributions he has made to Marion General Hospital and the Grant County Community. I wish the very best to Paul and his wife, Marsha, as he enjoys a well-deserved retirement.

HONORING BEST BUY'S 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Best Buy's 50th anniversary. Through these 50 years, Best Buy has shown leadership, community service, and entrepreneurship in Minnesota and beyond.

Best Buy was started in 1966 by Richard M. Schulze. Mr. Schulze is a Minnesota native and former member of the Minnesota Air National Guard in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mr. Schulze started Best Buy with four employees, less than \$11,000 in capital, and with the sole experience of selling electronics at his father's company. At that time the store offered albums, audio cassettes, stereo components, speakers and musical instruments.

In just four years Best Buy, then called "Sound of Music", accumulated \$1 million in annual revenue. Since then Best Buy has been growing its company by updating retail technology, expanding all over the country, expanding recycle efforts and providing teenagers with access to technology.

Best Buy has also been generous in its philanthropic work and diligent in its efforts to protect the environment. In 1994 the Best Buy Children's Foundation was established and that same year they raised over \$107,000. Since then they have had annual charities that raise millions of dollars in order to give underserved youth access to technology. Best Buy has collected and recycled over 1 billion pounds of e-waste and has decreased its carbon footprint by more than 25 percent since 2009. Overall Best Buy has given over \$50 million and over 140,000 volunteer hours to Minnesota non-profits.

Not only has Best Buy done extensive charity work but they also educate teens through their national Teen Tech Centers. These Teen Tech Centers are a space for teens to use new technologies like music and video productions, photography, design and programming. Through these Teen Tech Centers 1,800

teens have completed educational workshops and 94 percent of the attendees will continue their education post high school. Over the years, Best Buy has employed over 1 million people, including 10,000 Minnesotans, through its 1,600 North American stores and online sales.

Best Buy is North America's number one retailer of consumer technology and other related services. I wish Best Buy all the best in their future endeavors.

A CAREER OF SERVICE TO
OTHERS

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ruth Flower, the 2016 recipient of the Coalition on Human Needs' Hero award for her outstanding work fighting against poverty and for peace and justice.

As a Human Needs Hero, Ruth is joining an esteemed group of individuals who go above and beyond to fight for the dignity and quality of life of all people. In her numerous interactions with my office, it was clear Ruth has a passion for helping others, and is a truly extraordinary advocate for those in need.

During Ruth's career as Associate Executive Secretary for Legislative Programs at the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), Ruth enjoyed meeting with lawmakers from both sides of the aisle and with a wide array of viewpoints. She would leave no stone unturned in her efforts to find the necessary resources for those who needed them most.

For example, in my Congressional District, Ruth's worked with me to dramatically improve the lives of students attending the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school, which is in desperate need of renovation. Ruth's advocacy helped build support in Congress and the Administration for funding for a new school. I am so pleased to say that after years of tireless efforts by many, including yours truly, students from the Leech Lake Reservation will no longer have to attend class in a drafty, unsafe, and hazardous pole building.

In addition to advocating for Native American concerns, Ruth led efforts to address a wide range of our shared priorities, including health care reform, affordable housing, federal budget priorities, civil liberties, campaign finance reform, and the challenge of poverty in the U.S.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and others in congratulating Ruth on her receipt of the Human Needs Hero award as we thank her for her tireless work at FCNL to improve the lives of all-too-often underrepresented segments of our society.

REMEMBERING WALTER BIALEK

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Walter J. Bialek—beloved family man, friend and religious mentor to many. Mr. Bialek passed from this life

on September 3, 2009. As we celebrate Flag Day, it is fitting to recall the contributions made by American citizens. Mr. Bialek's son, Joe, has requested recognition of his father's contributions to his community of Cleveland, Ohio. Thus, I submit the following recognition from Joe Bialek honoring his father. Mr. Bialek's memory beats strong in the hearts of his family and his son offers a moving tribute to his father:

"Walter Bialek grew up in the area of Saint Hyacinth in what is now considered a part of the Slavic Village neighborhood in Northeast Ohio. Born in a house next door to the convent that housed many nuns of the Order of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, he always spoke very reverently of them about how much he appreciated the values they, along with his parents, helped to instill in him.

"Mr. Bialek graduated from East Tech High School in 1936 and earned a diploma with an emphasis in electricity. He was drafted into the Army-Air Forces in 1941 and served as a Staff Sergeant. At one time he was ordered off a troop truck headed for overseas combat in order to teach twin engine aircraft training to fighter/bomber pilots.

Through this he contributed greatly to the defense of liberty and the preservation of all those freedoms we enjoy today. After the war Mr. Bialek was offered a player contract from the Cleveland Indians baseball team but, on the advice of his father, declined it because he did not want to play on Sundays. He worked briefly for the Indians as a Territorial Scout (and kept the business card to prove it.) In 1950, he married Eileen C. Moran. Together they raised six children. Walter Bialek pursued an engineering career starting with Thompson Products—the T in TRW—and culminating in his retirement from the General Motors Chevrolet Plant in Parma, Ohio after 26 years of service. Throughout, he was active in the Third Order of Saint Francis.

"We join his family and friends in honor and remembrance of Walter J. Bialek, beloved husband of Eileen; beloved father of Mary, Patricia, Eileen, John, Alice and Joseph. He was also the adoring grandfather of Matthew, Chad, Katie, Kimberly, Timothy, Colleen, Tiffany, Nathan, Mark, John, John Jr., Daniel, Andrew, Elizabeth, Steven and Teresa.

"Mr. Bialek's devout life was defined by his deep dedication to family and friends, and his exceptional faith in the Catholic Church. His strong spirit, integrity, energy and good works have served to uplift the lives of countless individuals, families—and the communities in which he resided."

INTRODUCTION OF THE VOTE BY
MAIL ACT OF 2016

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Vote By Mail Act of 2016. The individual right to vote is the foundation of our government, and making sure that all Americans have the ability to exercise that right is critical to the democratic process. My home state of Oregon is a leader in innovative voting rights policy, and this legislation provides a pathway for the federal government to follow Oregon's model program.

Too many Americans around the country face extreme barriers to registering to vote and casting a ballot. Many voters often have work, family, or other commitments that make getting to polls and waiting in line on Election Day difficult or impossible. Many citizens with disabilities are physically unable to vote due to long lines, inadequate parking, no curb cuts, steep ramps, and large crowds. In 2012, 30 percent of voters with disabilities had difficulty voting, and more than 5,000,000 voters waited for more than an hour to cast a vote. Polling stations in rural jurisdictions tend to have higher costs per voter, smaller staffs, and limited resources. Additionally, transportation to the polls is often a difficult barrier for rural voters. Despite these impediments, many of these voters are not permitted to vote by mail in many states. Fortunately, a handful of states are addressing this problem, and three states currently hold elections entirely by mail. It's time to bring this policy to scale in all federal elections.

The benefits of voting by mail are numerous and well-documented. Voting by mail gives voters more time to consider their choices, which is especially important due to the expanded use of the initiative and referendum process in many states. Voting by mail is cost-effective. As shown in Oregon and Colorado, the cost of conducting vote by mail elections is generally one-third to one-half less than conducting polling place elections. Allowing all voters the option to vote by mail can reduce waiting times for those voters who choose to vote at the polls. Vote by mail also typically increases turnout in all elections, but can be particularly effective in increasing voter participation in special elections and primary elections.

The Vote By Mail Act of 2016 legislation would require states to mail ballots to all registered voters in federal elections, eliminating barriers to the ballot—saving states and local governments money and saving voters time and stress across the country.

Another crucial component of a modern voting system is making it easy, affordable, and accessible to register to vote, further multiplying the positive voter participation effects of a vote by mail system. Eighteen states and the District of Columbia introduced automatic voter registration legislation in 2015, and Oregon and California now automatically register their citizens to vote when they apply for a driver's license. Automatic, permanent voter registration has the potential to increase participation, protect election integrity, and reduce registration costs. This legislation would follow the Oregon example, register millions of eligible voters at little cost, and widely increase participation in American democracy.

There is no better time to seamlessly expand voter registration and provide more options for Americans to vote, and the stakes have never been higher.

ONE YEAR OF THE DANGEROUS
IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, one year ago, the President announced the

framework of the dangerous Iran nuclear deal. In the past year, Iran continues to grow more hostile, threatening American families and our allies in the Middle East, especially Israel by testing intercontinental ballistic missiles. What's more, Iran has ordered its military to produce ICBMs that are capable of reaching more targets—Europe and even the United States. And they hatefully chant "Death to America, Death to Israel!"

We should not make it easier for a rogue state to threaten American families and our allies by ignoring reality and offering more concessions to a regime which oppresses their great people. I appreciate that House Republicans have done everything we can to exercise oversight over the implementation of the dangerous agreement. This week, we passed legislation that would prevent the U.S. from purchasing heavy water from Iran and would deny the despots access to the dollar. We also passed the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, which holds Iran accountable for their ballistic missile violations and their human rights abuses against their citizens.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

HONORING IDAHO POWER'S 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Idaho Power on its 100 year anniversary.

For 100 years, Idaho Power has provided the electricity that fuels the economy, powers lives and makes southern Idaho and eastern Oregon more comfortable places to live.

Founded August 1, 1916, when five companies merged, Idaho Power initially served 18,000 customers. Today, the company has approximately 2,000 dedicated employees who serve over 520,000 customers in a 24,000-square-mile area. Idaho Power is one of a few investor-owned electric utilities with a primarily hydroelectric generating base.

One hundred years ago, Idaho Power relied solely on power produced by nine hydroelectric plants along the Snake River to meet customers' energy needs. Today, the company's generation resource mix comes from 17 hydroelectric power plants, three natural gas-fired plants and three jointly-owned coal-fired plants. The newest addition, Langley Gulch, is a natural gas-fired plant that began production in July 2012. Idaho Power also purchases renewable energy such as wind, solar and geothermal from independent power producers.

From fish conservation efforts to raptor protection to watershed management, Idaho Power has a rich legacy of caring for the land and rivers in its service area. The company also operates and maintains over 50 recreational facilities along the Snake River, providing outdoor activities to visitors from around the world.

Idaho Power supports the communities it serves through employee volunteerism, corporate donations and community sponsorships. The company also enables the success

of students through scholarships and educational programs.

As Idaho Power begins its next 100 years, it will continue balancing the needs of shareholders, customers and its workforce while protecting the natural resources of Idaho and Oregon.

HONORING THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF BLACK LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVES

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and praise the countless contributions of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE). NOBLE was founded in 1976 during to address ways to reduce crime in low-income areas. NOBLE's mission of ensuring equity in the administration of justice in the provision of public service to all communities is aligned with the work that we undertake here in the Congress of the United States.

NOBLE prides itself on being the conscience of law enforcement as they are committed to Justice by Action. The organization has nearly 60 chapters and represents over 3,000 members worldwide that represent chief executive officers and command-level law enforcement officials from federal, state, county, municipal law enforcement agencies and criminal justice practitioners.

I applaud the work NOBLE undertakes. Of particular note is the specific focus on serving more than 60,000 youth through its major program components including Mentoring, Education, Leadership Development, and Safety.

Law enforcement officers have a unique place and role in our society. Charged with keeping order and maintaining the peace, at times, the balance between personal rights and the duty of law enforcement officers is called into question. But, I cannot imagine a society without the presence of our esteemed law enforcement officers who protect and serve every day.

Every day, our law enforcement officers place their lives at risk to protect others. As they celebrate 40 years of service, we honor them for their public service, a selfless commitment to our communities, their tireless efforts to ensure our safety, and their unique role in the maintenance of the rule of law in our nation.

WELLES DECLARATION

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the anniversary of the Welles Declaration, a diplomatic statement that helped shape U.S. policy in Europe for more than 50 years.

In the summer of 1940, the Soviet Union in an effort to expand its oppressive regime invaded the Baltic States of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. This was part of the Molotov-Rib-

bentrop Pact the Soviets signed with Nazi Germany. After the Red Army overran the Baltics the Soviets imprisoned the nations' political leaders and oversaw rigged elections. The new puppet governments immediately petitioned to join the Soviet Union. Any voices of opposition were suppressed and more than 100,000 citizens were deported from the Baltic States to Soviet camps.

In light of these horrific events Secretary of State Sumner Welles issued a statement condemning the Soviet occupation of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, as well as refusing to recognize the annexation of the Soviet Republics on July 23, 1940. The Baltic States maintained independent diplomatic missions, including here in Washington, DC. Every American President from 1940 through the independence of the Baltics in 1990 and 1991 supported the principles set forth in the Welles Declaration.

The principles of the Welles Declaration still hold true today. We must stand against Russia's aggression toward its neighbors, including our NATO allies in the Baltics, and their occupation of areas of Ukraine. I commend America's stand against Soviet aggression during the Cold War and hope we will stand strongly for freedom today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I was not recorded for the following Roll Call vote on July 12, 2016 and would like to reflect that I would have voted as follows:

Roll call Number 409: NO.

GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, the Majority shouldn't be rushing to leave town. We should be acting to combat the gun violence epidemic that's tearing apart our country. Guns have devastated communities all across the country, whether it's a place of worship, a hospital, or even an elementary school. What were once sanctuaries have all too often become shooting galleries.

We all watched just days ago as a peaceful protest in the wonderful city of Dallas turned deadly as a gunman ambushed and murdered police officers in the deadliest attack on law enforcement in the U.S. since 9/11. No community should have to go through such horror.

This is another tragic reminder of the dangers posed by easy access to weapons designed to kill. It should forever refute one of the most pervasive talking points from the gun lobby, that the only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun. Law enforcement across the country make sacrifices every single day to keep us safe. But even an entire police force cannot prevent the tragedy caused by a madman determined to use a weapon of war in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the sad reality is that 91 people are killed by a gun every single day in America. Since Sandy Hook, there have been close to a thousand mass shootings. This has left our nation in a state of perpetual mourning with the constant fear that when our loved ones leave the house, we may never see them again.

But despite this, the Majority has bowed to the pressure of the gun lobby again and again and failed to take up any meaningful reforms to combat gun violence. During the sit-in, we made a commitment to the American people that despite the Majority's inaction, we would keep fighting. The public remains united in demanding action. We're asking for votes on two bills that make good sense, one of which may have helped prevent the tragedy in Dallas. People must be astounded to hear that someone on the terrorist watch list cannot fly but still buy a gun. But instead of taking up these bills, the Majority is running for the exits to begin a nearly two month recess. It's shameful.

HONORING MR. DAVID GRABILL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of David Grabill, who passed away on June 9, 2016, after 74 remarkable years.

Mr. Grabill led a long and successful career in law and social justice advocacy, and worked hard to ensure that disadvantaged members of our community had access to top notch legal representation. He completed his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at Yale University, before earning his Juris Doctor from the University of Pennsylvania School of Law.

Over the course of a diverse and illustrious career, Mr. Grabill earned admission to the bar for the District of Columbia, Indiana, California, West Virginia, and the Ogallala Sioux Tribe. In these different jurisdictions, Mr. Grabill worked to ensure that our country's promise of equal justice under the law was not just an ideal, but a reality. He regularly represented victims of housing discrimination in both federal and state courts, and also represented Native American tribes and interests in Escondido, California.

Many of Mr. Grabill's cases led to major policy changes to better support the interests of disadvantaged groups. While working in West Virginia, Mr. Grabill successfully led the lawsuit that overturned West Virginia's unconstitutional ban on abortion, allowing the state's first women's health center to open and provide safe and legal abortion services. The case Sonoma County Housing Now v. City of Healdsburg, settled in 1989, resulted in zoning for 500 new apartments and updated policies to encourage affordable housing development. Thanks to Mr. Grabill's work on another case, the City of Santa Rosa agreed to plan for 3000 additional affordable housing units and to build the 80-bed Samuel Jones homeless shelter.

Mr. Grabill co-founded the Sonoma County Housing Advocacy Group, which fights for more local affordable housing development

and represents low-income individuals seeking housing. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Sonoma County Chapter of the ACLU from 1996 until 2003 and on the Executive Board of the Accountable Development Coalition from 2005 until 2010.

Mr. Speaker, David Grabill was a generous person and a fierce advocate for those less fortunate, and therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RAY MARVIN
KECK III

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Ray Marvin Keck III was born in San Antonio, Texas to Mr. Ray Keck and Mrs. Joyce Keck. Dr. Keck grew up in Cotulla, Texas but considers Laredo to be his hometown. He attended The Texas Military Academy and went on to earn an AB and a PhD in Romantic Languages and Literature from Princeton University. Beyond that, Dr. Keck studied at Harvard Divinity School, the National Autonomous University of Mexico, the Center of Hispanic Studies in Madrid, and the German Summer School.

Dr. Keck began his teaching career at the Hotchkiss School in Connecticut in 1970. He then joined the Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) faculty in 1979, and went on to become a professor, department chair, provost and the university's longest-serving president. Under his leadership, TAMIU has doubled its enrollment and serves a higher percentage Hispanic population than any college or university in the country. Under his administration, the university has improved with the upgrade of the Lamar Bruni Vergara Planetarium, the creation of the Senator Judith Zaffirini Student Success Center, and the creation of the Texas Academy of International STEM Studies.

During Dr. Keck's tenure as TAMIU president, the university has been consistently recognized in rankings by Washington Monthly Money Magazine, and The Economist for providing a high value education for its students. Dr. Keck has received many awards and honors recognizing his advocacy of higher education, promotion of art and culture, study of the riches of the Spanish language, and his devotion to advancing his hometown, Laredo. In May 2016, Dr. Keck was named the interim president at the Texas A&M University-Commerce.

Dr. Ray Keck is a devoted husband to his wife, Patricia Cigarroa Keck and father of three daughters Teresa, Joyce, and Lacey, who is no longer with us. He is a proud grandfather of Adam and Laila. Dr. Keck is also an accomplished organist, having performed as a guest artist with the Laredo Philharmonic Orchestra and others around the nation. He is the author of Love's Dialectic: Mimesis and Allegory in the Romances of Lope de Vega and supports the need for a comprehensive, dual-language program for all students in Texas schools.

CONGRATULATING THE 2016 USA
RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS OLYMPIC
TEAM

HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize six talented young women from the Tenth Congressional District of Illinois who have been selected to represent our country in the rhythmic gymnastics group competition at the upcoming 2016 Summer Olympics.

Monica Rokhman, Jennifer Rokhman, Natalie McGiffert, Kiana Eide, Alisa Kano and Kristen Shaldybin will be departing for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil this August to compete for Team USA.

Our community is proud of their hard work as members of the North Shore Rhythmic Gymnastics Center, and I commend them on all of their recent achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I am very excited to watch this dedicated group of young women compete and look forward to celebrating all of their success.

RECOGNIZING THE BOEING COMPANY'S
100TH ANNIVERSARY ON
JULY 15, 2016

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to pay tribute to a highly respected American company: The Boeing Company. This July marks 100 years since William E. Boeing founded the business after he turned a small building he bought in Lake Union, Washington into a combined factory and seaplane hangar. In its centennial year, Boeing continues to prosper as the world's largest aerospace company and the largest manufacturing exporter in the United States. Today I wish to congratulate the company on its 100th anniversary.

Most people know Boeing for its long tradition in aerospace initiative and innovation, but behind its reputation is a corporation fueled by a legendary American entrepreneur and engineer: William E. Boeing.

William E. Boeing experienced many setbacks before becoming successful. In fact, when Boeing was only 22 years old, he dropped out of Yale. Even though it was risky, he moved to Washington to start in the logging business on land that he had inherited. Although Boeing started to buy more timberland and gain more wealth for his family, he was never cut out for the meticulous, reserved life of a logger.

As he continued his logging business, he decided to attend an aviation meet in Los Angeles in 1910. At the meet, he became enthralled with airplanes and tried to get a ride on one of the boxy airplanes, but had no success. In 1914, flier Terah Maroney brought a Curtiss-type hydroplane with him when he visited Boeing and his friend, U.S. Navy Lieutenant G. Conrad Westervelt. The pair took turns riding with Maroney above Lake Washington and after a few turns, the two realized that they could build a better airplane.

On July 15, 1916, William Boeing incorporated the Pacific Aero Products Company and just four months later, Boeing and Westervelt had the first test flight of their first plane. The seaplane/biplane was the Bluebill, B&W Model 1. The plane flew 900 feet, marking the beginning of the largest aerospace company in the world. One year later, the company was renamed Boeing Airplane Company.

Boeing helped America get through the hard times. During the Great Depression, the company and other airlines formed the United Airlines to provide continent-wide U.S. air service. In World War II, Boeing provided planes that helped the Allies defeat the Axis power. Today, they help America through yet another battle: the War on Terror.

To fight the War on Terror, Boeing supplies us with a number of tools for our defense. One of these great tools is the AH-64 Apache Helicopter. Entering service with the United States Army in 1984, the AH-64 Apache Helicopter is the primary multirole combat helicopter for the U.S. Army and for a growing number of our allies' defense forces. The Apache was built to fight our enemies during the day or night in adverse weather conditions and challenging battlefields.

These helicopters have been used in Operation Desert Storm, Operation Anaconda, and continue to be used for peacekeeping operations in order to fight terrorism around the world. I am honored that Boeing uses its plant in Mesa, Arizona, to produce these revolutionary fighting helicopters for America's defense.

The company has had a tremendous impact both nationally and globally, and this impact is seen in Arizona. In my state, the Boeing Company works with 387 businesses and supports 46,000 employees with 3,851 of those being direct employees. Boeing has also given millions in charitable contributions to our state and has created jobs and economic opportunity while working to create the world's most advanced and innovative aerospace products and services.

Today, the Boeing Company continues its success under the leadership of Chairman, President, and CEO Dennis A. Muilenburg. Passion and competence hold this venerable company together, while innovation drives it further. As the company celebrates its centennial year, the passion and spirit of William E. Boeing lives on as Boeing continues its long tradition of leadership and innovation in aerospace. May it have one hundred more.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICAID
IMD EXCLUSION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act and remove the exclusion of coverage for services in institutions of mental diseases (IMD) under Medicaid. This legislation will enable more Americans who suffer from severe substance use disorders (SUD) to gain equal access to the treatment necessary to their long-term recovery.

Substance use disorder plagues the United States both socially and economically. The

cost of substance abuse and drug addiction to our health care system totals \$705 billion annually and the human costs of this disease are nothing short of devastating for many American families.

Providing health care services and treatment resources to those who suffer from substance abuse is critical. However, millions of Americans who need treatment go without services each year. This shortfall is a symptom of outdated policy that limits the availability of substance use disorder services, particularly for those who require residential care to address their addictions.

Under current law, Medicaid beneficiaries are barred access to community-based residential treatment for severe conditions due to the IMD exclusion that prohibits reimbursement care of patients at facilities with more than 16 beds. This nonsensical exclusion has effectively deterred facilities from serving those in dire need of care.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation addresses this problem by eliminating the IMD exclusion and allowing those who suffer from severe addiction to have equal access to treatment and become productive members of society. It will also reduce the social and economic consequences associated with substance abuse. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill and addressing a devastating problem affecting far too many communities across the nation.

RECOGNIZING WANDA RAE POWELL OF DANVERS, ILLINOIS RECIPIENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to honor Wanda Rae Powell, a cadet volunteer in the Civil Air Patrol during World War II, for receiving the Congressional Gold Medal.

Wanda Rae Powell was raised in Towanda, Illinois and had a love for aviation for as long as she can remember. As a child, Wanda's heroes included Amelia Earhart and Charles Lindbergh. Upon moving to Bell, California in 1944, Wanda served as a volunteer cadet in the Civil Air Patrol while still attending high school. As a cadet, she studied silhouettes of military airplanes and learned to salute, march, and drill. In the summer of 1945, Wanda served in a factory overseeing the manufacture of military life jackets.

After graduating from high school, Wanda returned to Illinois and attended Illinois State University, known as Illinois State Normal University at the time, where she studied Home Economics. Because of a teaching shortage in 1949, Wanda earned an emergency teaching degree and taught in Central Illinois before returning to finish her degree at Illinois State. After receiving her degree in 1955, Wanda continued to serve the Central Illinois community by teaching at Danvers High School. Additionally, she served our community as a Brokaw Hospital volunteer, a Brownie Girl Scout leader, and in the Parent Teachers Association.

I am honored, today, to recognize Wanda for receiving the Congressional Gold Medal.

Since the age of seventeen, she has shown what it means to be a true American, serving her country in the Armed Forces, as an educator, and community volunteer. On behalf of the 18th District, I would like to thank her for her service, and wish her my sincerest congratulations on this much deserved award.

GUN VIOLENCE

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, two issues have been plaguing communities across the nation: gun violence and excessive force by police.

Make no mistake, these are very separate issues. They're problems that people in my district care deeply about and that deserve to be addressed in their own right.

But both of these are urgent crises that are making our communities less safe.

These issues deserve action here in Congress, but they'll both take much more than that.

Solving these issues won't just happen in this House, it's a discussion that needs to happen in every house across America.

It will require us to come together and really listen to each other, to understand things from a perspective that many of us haven't experienced.

Many of us will never know what it's like to lose someone to gun violence, just as many of us don't know what it's like to have to sit your kids down and explain to them that they need to be careful because they won't necessarily be treated fairly by law enforcement.

Addressing these two issues will take a level of empathy and cooperation that, frankly, we haven't seen a lot of in Washington lately. And it will take a will to act.

These are complicated problems, with no single, simple solution, but that shouldn't stop us from trying.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Vote 451, I voted No. I intended to vote Aye.

A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO CURBING THE OPIOID CRISIS

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard-working medical professionals and law enforcement staff of Morrison County for their successful work in the fight against opioid abuse.

The fight against the epidemic is centered at the St. Gabriel's Hospital in Little Falls, Minnesota, where a collaborative care team fo-

cuses on the unique needs of patients to help them on their individual roads to recovery.

Recently, I was pleased to host the leaders of the collaborative care team at a briefing here in Washington, so that they could share best-practices with Congressional staff. Their comprehensive model for dealing with the crisis focuses on the causes of opioid addiction and utilizes systems like Minnesota's Prescription Monitoring Program to prevent the over-prescribing of pain medication. St. Gabriel's approach involves the entire community and creating healing, holistic partnerships between health care providers and the community based on self-determination, safety and respect.

I ask my colleagues in Congress to join me in recognizing the dedicated professionals at St. Gabriel's for their outstanding work which has reclaimed and saved so many precious lives.

S. 524, COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY ACT

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I voted to support the Conference Report accompanying S. 524, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. Although I support this critical legislative effort to begin fighting back against the opioid abuse and addiction crisis that has swept our country, there is much more work to be done to combat this epidemic. Passing this bill is encouraging, but it is only a first step.

Unfortunately, many of the programs laid out in the legislation are not supported by the funding necessary to be fully effective. To achieve any measure of success, we must ensure that health care and treatment providers have the resources they need to effectively curtail opioid abuse and addiction, including robust funding and educational support for state and local initiatives.

I ask my colleagues that we build on the progress made today and work to provide adequate funding and support to those who care for our communities and constituents as we address this enormous challenge.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA MOTOR TRUCK ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT JIM RUNK

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Jim Runk, President of the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association (PMTA). Jim will be retiring from the PMTA on July 20, 2016, after 44 years of service to the association, the last 25 as its president. As a leading transportation advocate in my home state, Jim's voice, presence, and thoughtful guidance will be deeply missed, but he leaves behind an indelible mark on the trucking industry of Pennsylvania and the country.

Jim began working for the PMTA in 1972 after serving in the U.S. Army, and became

the association's fifth president in 1991. During that time, over four decades of service, Jim and the PMTA have worked on behalf of the Pennsylvania trucking industry, fighting to preserve and strengthen the industry, and protect and promote its jobs. Whether that meant impacting legislation before the Pennsylvania General Assembly, or marching through the halls of Congress to meet with members and staff of the Pennsylvania delegation, Jim and the PMTA's voices were always respected. Without question, during my time representing the 9th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, and serving as Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Jim has been the face of trucking and a trusted advisor on the safe and efficient operations of the industry.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a privilege to work with Jim, and I thank him for his decades of service to the PMTA. While he will be truly missed, the Pennsylvania trucking industry will be forever grateful for his tireless leadership and service on their behalf. I wish Jim and his wife Linda the very best in whatever their futures may hold.

URGING IMMEDIATE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE RARE PEDIATRIC DISEASE PRIORITY REVIEW VOUCHER PROGRAM

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge immediate reauthorization of the Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher Program before it expires at the end of this fiscal year. Simply put, this program has proven to save the lives of children. My colleague and dear friend from North Carolina, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and I have introduced legislation that would make it permanent. Last July, thanks to the leadership of Committee on Energy and Commerce Chairman FRED UPTON and his staff and advocates like Nancy Goodman, who is the founder and Executive Director of Kids v. Cancer, this Chamber passed an amended version of this initiative as part of H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act. This program is a crucial incentive—in addition to the Orphan Drug Act—for drug manufacturers to make the significant investment in developing therapies for rare pediatric diseases, including pediatric cancers and lysosomal storage disorders.

When we were considering H.R. 6 last July and again in recognition of National Neuroblastoma Awareness Day last September, I came to this Floor to speak about the positive impact the Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher Program has had on children with neuroblastoma. Because of the limited market incentives available prior to the creation of the program, biopharmaceutical companies had been unwilling to risk investing in research and development for a therapy that treats this extremely rare and devastating pediatric cancer. The Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher Program proved to be the necessary incentive for United Therapeutics to satisfy this unmet need with the development of Unituxin. In March 2015, this therapy received Food and Drug Administra-

tion ("FDA") approval for children with high-risk neuroblastoma. Unituxin was the first drug that FDA approved for this condition and only the second FDA-approved therapy for pediatric cancer. Upon its approval, FDA awarded Unituxin the second voucher from this program.

As the chairman of the Childhood Cancer Caucus, I recognize the importance of this therapy to the community, especially to children like four-year-old Rex Ryan from Austin in the 10th District of Texas. Diagnosed with high-risk neuroblastoma at 17 months old, Rex's parents Leslie and Casey enrolled him in the clinical trial for Unituxin at Children's Blood and Cancer Center at Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas in Austin. Rex is a neuroblastoma survivor because of this new drug, which would not have been developed without the voucher program. After witnessing the direct impact Unituxin has had on Rex and his parents, it would be unconscionable for Congress to allow this program to expire. As I have previously described, the hope afforded by the Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher Program extends to other conditions as well.

Nearly two years ago, I came to this Floor to speak about the value of the program just after BioMarin Pharmaceuticals sold the first voucher from this program for \$67.5 million, which the company immediately reinvested to build a clinical laboratory on its campus in San Rafael, California. The laboratory is a critical component of its development of a gene therapy platform for hemophilia A, which is showing promising early data in eight patients. BioMarin received this first voucher for developing a therapy for Morquio A syndrome, which is also known as mucopolysaccharidosis ("MPS") type IV. Unfortunately for the millions of children affected by one of the nearly 7,000 rare diseases without a treatment, such as several of the other types and subtypes of MPS, including Sanfilippo syndrome and Sly syndrome, politics have hampered Senate negotiations on its larger innovation package, which is putting the program in jeopardy.

Patients like eight-year-old Beckett Weldon, who is from Cypress in the 10th District of Texas, cannot afford for Congress to allow this program to lapse. Beckett suffers from SYNGAP1-related intellectual disability, which is an ultra-rare and severely disabling, genetic neurological disorder. Approximately two-thirds of the children with this condition have some form of epilepsy. Other symptoms include hypotonia, behavioral disorders, language impairment, and oral dyspraxia. Beckett began his four-year diagnostic odyssey at 4 months old, when he began missing milestones his twin sister Pyper was meeting. After visiting 19 specialists and several diagnostic tests, Beckett received his diagnosis.

Only recently identified, SYNGAP1-related intellectual disability has no FDA-approved treatment. Beckett's parents Monica and Chris hope to change that for this community. Less than two years after Beckett's diagnosis in 2012, Monica Weldon—with the help of Global Genes—founded Bridge the Gap-SYNGAP Education and Research Foundation, which is a member of the National Organization for Rare Disorders ("NORD"). Due to Monica's efforts, the Foundation was one of twenty rare disease patient organizations selected in April to develop natural history studies with the as-

sistance of NORD and supported in part by a cooperative agreement with the FDA. The Bridge the Gap-SYNGAP Education and Research Foundation is also hosting the first ever SYNGAP1 International Conference November 30–December 1, 2016 at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston in an effort to bring together families, researchers, and clinicians to foster a collaborative environment that will lead to the development of treatments and ultimately a cure for the condition.

As the SYNGAP1 community initiates these efforts toward treatments and a cure, it is critical that the Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher Program be available as an incentive for manufacturers to consider investing in therapies for this condition. Congress must continue to help sick children and their families find treatments by extending this valuable program.

TRIBUTE TO MINERVA CRANTZ ALLEN

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Minerva Crantz Allen, a bilingual Native American educator, linguist, and poet. It is my pleasure to commend Minerva for her lifelong commitment to preserving the Assiniboine (Nakoda) tradition, heritage, and culture. Her civic accomplishments for the Native American people truly make her the embodiment of leadership and service.

Minerva was born in the spring of 1934 on the Fort Belknap Indian reservation, in North-central Montana. Her grandfather instilled in her at an early age the importance of education for her future. The daughter of a French Chippewa father and an Assiniboine-Gros Ventre mother, Minerva spoke her native languages, but also taught herself English by singing songs with the Presbyterian ministers' wife. Minerva's grandmother, aunts and uncles still conversed in the Sakoda language, because of their culture and belief system.

Growing up was hard, not only because of the Great Depression. Minerva hid her language, culture and religion, and was scared of being turned into the law. Minerva thrived on following her passions, despite the sacrifices. At thirteen years old, she was sent to attend Indian Boarding School at Flandreau, South Dakota. Minerva was a very outgoing member of the student body—a cheerleader, Homecoming Queen, playing football and basketball. Despite the death of her grandfather and her parents' divorce, she went on to obtain a bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University, a master's degree from Northern Montana State College, and completed additional coursework at Weber State College.

Minerva has proven herself time and again, holding various critical positions with the Hays' Lodge Pole school system. As the Head Start director for eight years, Minerva helped to establish the first Foster Grandparent Program, bringing grandmothers and grandfathers into the classroom to teach the students their language and culture. She has written several books that translate Indian history and folklore into English, and she has published two books of her own poetry which are used widely in Montana.

Minerva is very active in her community, reservation, and state. Minerva has been invited to numerous schools in Montana, served as President and Vice-President of the Montana Association of Bilingual Education (MABE), as well as Montana Indian Education Association (MIEA). She is an Ambassador for Indian Education for All, telling stories about how all people can learn the truth about Native American history, culture and philosophy into their classroom, bridging the gap of racism and teaching about the richness of indigenous people's history and culture.

Rarely does a single personal history reflect so vividly an individual's struggle and determination to make life truly meaningful. Minerva's strength and inspiring spirit match her drive to make the world a better place for her people. Today, as a widowed ranch woman, she still lives on her grandfather's land after three generations, next to the Little Rockies Mountains, where she was born.

IN HONOR OF THE DISTRIBUTIVE
EDUCATION CLUBS OF AMERICA

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the efforts of the Western Sierra Collegiate Academy's Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) chapter and the success of similar chapters throughout the country. Through teaching methods focused on development in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management, students participating in DECA are effectively prepared for their future careers.

The Western Sierra Collegiate Academy's DECA chapter successfully equips emerging entrepreneurs with goal-setting, consensus-building, and project-management skills. By tapping into its students' varying interests and learning styles, DECA's adaptive business-development program engages students in a hands-on environment, including entrepreneur activities such as operating school stores, organizing fundraising events, and participating in business simulation competitions with other DECA chapters. DECA encourages its students to learn and practice smart business strategies, opening doors for students to develop and influence the business sector.

The Western Sierra Collegiate Academy successfully engages its students in business practices and has been named a Gold-level School-Based Enterprise (SBE). In earning this award, Western Sierra Collegiate Academy has completed a detailed written description of how its chapter adheres to select business model standards in the above methods. Chapters are categorized into three SBE levels: bronze, silver, and gold. Western Sierra's Gold-level placement qualifies them to participate in the exclusive SBE Academy competition, held at the International Career Development Conference.

Throughout secondary and post-secondary education, it is essential to instill in students common-sense principles utilized by today's businesses, and the Western Sierra Collegiate Academy's chapter reaffirms this notion. The teaching methods and interactions that DECA applies allows students to learn the signifi-

cance and importance in one's ability to make choices and experience real-world business practices. The highly interactive nature of DECA allows students to understand the free market's benefits. The ability to teach these principles to students throughout high school and college is critical to our country's future free market drive and initiative.

Knowledge and practice of entrepreneurship coupled with interactive applications of smart business strategies in an educational environment not only teaches students how to engage in business with the necessary skills required, but also allows students to develop their own well-informed career goals. Currently, DECA chapters are in over 3,500 high schools and over 275 colleges, engaging over 215,000 students.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Western Sierra Collegiate Academy DECA chapter for its tireless efforts to inspire and train successful entrepreneurs and look forward to following their successes.

RECOGNIZING MR. CHARLES G. SCHLICHTER, JR. FOR HIS DEDICATION TO CHAMBERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA'S SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOTEMBA, JAPAN

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Charles G. Schlichter, Jr. for his dedication to Chambersburg, Pennsylvania's Sister City relationship with Gotemba, Japan.

Since 1958, when the Gotemba City Assembly voted to establish a Sister City relationship with Chambersburg, PA, the two cities have enjoyed a strong and fulfilling bond, as illustrated by the many citizen exchange visits that have occurred over the years. While much credit is owed to those responsible for establishing this relationship, I believe it is just as important to recognize those, like Mr. Schlichter, who have helped maintain this meaningful connection. What's more, I would like to highlight the 30-year commitment Mr. Schlichter has made to helping guide and maintain Chambersburg's Sister City relationship with Gotemba.

As a trusted member of the local business community, Mr. Schlichter was a natural choice to represent our area in this international relationship via the Chambersburg Sister City Committee. The Sister City Committee was established by Chambersburg Borough Council, however it remains committed to raising its necessary funds through donations and contributions from local organizations and businesses. Thanks to Mr. Schlichter's stewardship, our community continues to reap the benefits of this longstanding Sister City relationship.

Today I am proud to celebrate the 30 years that Mr. Schlichter has given to upholding this 55-years-and-counting bond, and on behalf of the 9th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I say thank you.

IN HONOR OF THE SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF ELGIN'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Second Baptist Church of Elgin on its 150th anniversary.

Since it was formally organized in 1866 by a group of men, women and children who had escaped slavery and established Elgin's African-American community, the Second Baptist Church has served the Greater Elgin Community through ministry and outreach.

In its 150 years, the church has grown in both size and membership and remains an important part of our Eighth District Community.

From its humble beginnings, the Second Baptist Church of Elgin has expanded to include a soup kitchen, young adult ministry, prison ministry, bus ministry, couples ministry and street ministry.

The church has partnered with local schools to help at-risk students, donated funds to the Boys and Girls Club of Elgin and in 2003 hosted a young State Senator by the name of Barack Obama as he introduced himself to our community.

I've met with their members when their League of Military Veterans came to visit Washington, DC, and I'm so proud of the connections they have forged that help keep our community connected and strong.

I am proud to honor the Second Baptist Church of Elgin as they celebrate their 150th anniversary and I look forward to their continued contributions to our community.

HONORING THE LATE SMITH
BRETT LAWRENCE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the late Mr. Smith Brett Lawrence of Keene, New York, who was extremely dedicated to his family, his community, and his country.

Mr. Lawrence, known as Brett to most, served during the Vietnam War as a United States Marine. He was an Adirondack Guide and lived the majority of his life in Keene, New York, located in New York's 21st Congressional District. Brett will be remembered by his family and friends as a loyal and dedicated man, with a wonderful sense of charity and a deep faith.

Brett devoted many years to organizations in his community including the Keene Valley Rod and Gun Club, the American Legion Post 1312, and the Keene Valley Congregational Church. Brett also drove sleds at the Lake Placid Bobsled-Run for 18 years, served with the Keene Volunteer Fire Department for 30 years, and also served as the chair of the Town of Keene Republican Committee.

However, what may have been Brett's greatest service to his community was his role as Keene's Santa Claus for the past 40 years. Dressed as Santa Claus, Brett would visit the

neighborhood houses, area hospitals, St. Agnes School, and often made house calls upon request. His role as Santa eventually earned him important recognition by Keene Central School's Honor Society, which honored him as "a graduate who has made outstanding contributions to our town, state, and nation." Brett will be missed by many for his dedication to civics through his involvement in many local organizations in Upstate New York and beyond.

I thank Brett's family for sharing him with the community and send them my most heartfelt condolences on his loss.

IN HONOR OF THE CRIGHTON
PLAYERS/PLAYERS THEATRE
COMPANY 50TH ANNIVERSARY
SEASON

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the same year that Mickey Mantle slugged his way to his 500th career homer, Andy Griffith was America's favorite TV dad and sheriff and Cabaret took home theatre's coveted Tony Award, a group of community leaders got together in Conroe to talk about how best to bring the arts to their city.

They gathered at the Montgomery County Library to form the Little Theatre of Conroe. Their first performance of "The Remarkable Mr. Pennypacker" was held in the Conroe High School auditorium.

Blessed with a faithful audience, the Conroe theatre stalwarts were able to purchase the old Hunt Plumbing Building in Conroe in 1967 where they performed comedies, dramas and dinner theatre fare. At the end of their first decade, they joined forces with the city of Conroe to produce their first musical to coincide with our nation's bicentennial celebrations.

"Oklahoma" was performed at Conroe High School to a standing room only crowd. Two years later, they wowed with "South Pacific".

It was about a decade into the Little Theatre's venture when Frank and Hallie Crighton Guthrie were exploring the possibility of donating their family's vaudeville theatre in downtown Conroe. All they asked was that the name be maintained and the theatre used primarily for the performing arts and that the Little Theatre of Conroe would be the resident theatre group.

With the help of architect Harry Devlin, fundraising artistry of Rigby Owen, and the sweat equity of the Little Theatre troupe, the run down theatre was reborn as the "Crown Jewel of Montgomery County." The Crighton Community Theatre then reopened with "The Last Meeting of the Knights of the White Magnolia," a play about a small Texas town.

For 30 years, the Crighton Theatre was home, but when the City of Conroe decided to invest in a downtown revitalization project, the 1947 Weisner building was repurposed as a state of the art theatre for the Crighton Players. It is in this theatre where they produce several shows each season to sold out crowds, including more than a thousand season ticket holders.

The Players Theatre Company brings the arts home to Conroe with studio programs,

summer arts programs, senior programs, C. Kidz, The Players' Old Time Radio Hour, the City of Conroe's Shakespeare Festival and annual community celebrations.

Their theatre conservatory program provides community members high quality arts instruction and corporate partnerships expand the reach of what started in the hearts of a small group of theatre lovers.

Experienced directors, actors, and technical crews voluntarily give their all for each performance and faithfully carry out the vision that began in the Montgomery County Library a half a century ago.

As we celebrate the Players 50th anniversary season, we rejoice in their successes and we can't wait to see what they do in their next 50 years.

CONSCIENCE PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the so-called Conscience Protection Act, S. 304, which is simply another unacceptable attack on women's reproductive health.

The sole purpose of this bill is to deny access and create additional barriers for women seeking safe and constitutionally protected medical procedures. After relentless attempts in this Congress and in the courts to curtail a women's right to choose, this bill is yet another measure designed to make it harder for women to get medical information critical to their health and safety.

This bill bypassed regular order and was rushed to the House floor days before Republican leadership plans to leave town for seven weeks. Yet, House Republicans are refusing to vote on—or adequately fund responses to—the many crises that endanger our public's health, from the Zika virus to gun violence to the epidemic of opioid addiction. Instead, House Republicans are choosing to vote on this bill to limit a woman's right to choose—the 13th vote in this Congress that undermines a woman's ability to make informed decisions about her own personal health and family.

I strongly oppose this bill and urge my colleagues to vote no.

GREAT JOB WAYZATA BASEBALL

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Wayzata High School Baseball team for winning the Minnesota state baseball championship.

The Wayzata Trojans stormed through the three game state tournament with an early decisive victory, a walk-off home run in the semifinals, and a solid pitching performance that allowed only five hits during the final contest. This resilient defensive effort, coupled with scoring four runs in the final two at bats

in the fifth inning, ultimately resulted in the Trojans winning their first state championship with a score of 9–1.

Baseball is a game that fosters teamwork, leadership, and sportsmanship. I also want to recognize their commitment not just to their sport, but to the time spent in the classroom and in the community to become outstanding student athletes.

Mr. Speaker, the family, fans, and the entire Wayzata community are very proud of this team. Congratulations again to the Trojans on winning the high school baseball championship.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote number 440 on H. Res. 822. I mistakenly recorded my vote as yes when I should have voted no.

PHILADELPHIA BLUE SOX

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Philadelphia Blue Sox, a thirteen-and-under little league baseball team from my district who have earned national recognition and have won five tournaments just this year with a sterling record of 40 wins and only 6 losses.

The team is made up of 14 handpicked players from Philadelphia and the surrounding suburbs. The boys are committed and train year round, often early in the morning and late into the night, when school and their parents allow.

Thanks to the dedicated leadership of their head coach Michael "Zoom" Zolk, Tom Ditro, and Michael "Big Zoom" Zolk, as well some help from the Philadelphia Police Department, the hard work and dedication of the Blue Sox has translated into an impressive string of victories.

We in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District are proud of this exceptional group of young men, and we are eager to see them continue to succeed. Go Blue Sox.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 447, on July 13, 2016, I was unavoidably detained off of the House floor. Therefore, I was unable to cast my vote on an amendment offered by Rep. GRAHAM (D-FL) to H.R. 5538.

Had I been present, I would have voted YES.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to clarify my position on roll call vote 447 cast on July 13, 2016.

On Roll Call Vote Number 447, on agreeing to Mrs. GRAHAM of Florida's Amendment, I voted "No." It was my intention to vote "Aye."

H.R. 1270, RESTORING ACCESS TO
MEDICATION ACT OF 2015**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the misnamed Restoring Access to Medication Act of 2015, H.R. 1270.

Once again, the Republican leadership has decided to bring a bill to the House floor that is harmful to Americans instead of doing the people's business and voting on a life saving bill that would decrease the ever-rising toll of gun violence. Our constituents are urging and counting on Congress to pass commonsense laws to establish universal criminal background checks and prevent terrorists from buying guns. Instead, Republicans have scheduled a vote for the 64th time to undermine the Affordable Care Act (ACA)—a law that has given 20 million additional Americans access to health care, eliminated discrimination based on pre-existing conditions, and reduced health care spending.

This bill repeals funding mechanisms that help pay for the ACA. Defunding these provisions would have devastating effects and put millions of Americans at risk of losing access to affordable health coverage.

Rather than considering commonsense gun legislation or raising the minimum wage, House Republicans choose to fight old battles by once again voting to repeal the ACA. I oppose this bill and urge my colleagues to vote no.

CONTINUING TO STRENGTHEN OUR
MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my thoughts on H.R. 2646, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016. I voted in favor of this bill on July 6 of this year because it is a step forward in improving the lives of many Americans affected by mental illness.

I support numerous key provisions of H.R. 2646, including reauthorizing grant programs to promote efforts that curb suicide deaths and substance abuse, requiring the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to develop a strategic plan to improve services for individuals with serious mental illness, and allowing Medicaid Managed Care

coverage of certain stays in psychiatric hospitals and other treatment facilities.

However, there remains much more work to be done in the mental health sphere. While H.R. 2646 addresses many of the pressing issues individuals affected by mental illness face, it misses the opportunity to address key areas that would greatly improve our mental health system.

H.R. 2646 could be improved by placing more emphasis on the benefits of community integration for people with mental health illnesses in conjunction with treatment by a medical professional. While hospitalization may be critical for some patients, a multi-faceted approach to treatment that includes community engagement and peer support has proven to be more effective in the long-term treatment of patients with mental illness.

I am also concerned by H.R. 2646's definition of "anosognosia," which states that people with psychiatric conditions may be unable to make sound decisions regarding their own care because they lack reasoning and judgment. Evidence has shown that people with psychiatric disabilities make reasonable decisions about their care comparable to others with chronic health conditions. I fear that this definition may further stigmatize those living with mental illness and may jeopardize their privacy in making health care decisions for themselves.

While this bill improves mental health services for people living with mental illness, I take exception to the Majority's premise that it in any way addresses the prevalence of gun violence. H.R. 2646 conflates the ideas that reforming the mental health system is a means of reducing violent gun crimes, when in fact, it is a false and manufactured narrative that people with mental illness are more prone to violent behavior. The truth is that researchers have not found any correlation between psychiatric diagnoses and mass murder and people with mental illness are more likely to be victims of violence than perpetrators of violent crimes.

I was pleased to vote in favor of H.R. 2646, as it marks an effort by this body to address our critically broken mental health system, but our priorities in this effort must remain focused on the health, security, and privacy of people living with mental illness. It is my hope that we will continue to improve upon this first step to guarantee that Americans with mental illness have access to effective mental health treatment while also remaining an integral part of our communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS.
JUANITA TUNIS**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Juanita Tunis, a longtime resident of Livonia, Michigan and an original Rosie the Riveter. Juanita was born on November 18, 1913 and passed peacefully on May 23, 2016 in South Lyon, Michigan. She lived her full life of 102 years as the cherished matriarch of her family, and an American hero.

Juanita was among the trailblazing women who stepped up during World War II to fill the

industry positions traditionally held by men. Collectively nicknamed "Rosie the Riveter", these inspiring women entered the workforce with grace and gusto to build planes, tanks and other armaments that sustained the war effort and kept American industry afloat. Juanita worked for three years at the Willow Run Bomber Plant in Ypsilanti building B-24 bombers. She often recalled the camaraderie among the women working at the plant, and remembered the bus rides to and from work with her fellow Rosies with particular fondness. In a time of worldwide strife, these pioneering women pulled together and went to work every day to keep our country going.

The contributions of Juanita and the original Rosie the Riveters made victory in World War II possible, and their patriotism and hard work will forever remain part of the American story. They instilled a newfound hope in their communities, embodying positivity in a time of great turmoil and uncertainty, and inspired a social movement that forever redefined the role of women in the workplace. The number of working women in the United States increased to 20 million in 1944, and has never since fallen to pre-war levels. Juanita and her fellow Rosies paved the way for generations to follow.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Juanita Tunis for her contributions to the war and her role in inspiring generations of American women. Her story is one that embodies the best of American values and spirit and one that we will continue to share with our children and grandchildren for decades to come. The values that Juanita and the Rosies embodied patriotism, bravery and resolve are ones we all must strive to emulate. We salute the Rosies for their contribution to American history. Their legacy will forever remind us that we all have the power to do something more for our country.

HONORING DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICER MICHAEL KROL**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dallas Police Officer Michael Krol, who was tragically killed during the recent shooting in Dallas on July 7, 2016. Officer Krol was just 40 years old when he lost his life.

According to his family, Officer Krol knew from a young age that he always wanted to be a police officer. His goal was to serve in law enforcement and when the opportunity within the Dallas Police Department presented itself, Officer Krol took the risk by moving halfway across the country to Dallas in pursuit of his dream. After years of hard work and preparation, Officer Krol graduated from the Dallas Police Academy on April 25, 2008.

Officer Krol was described as a caring person with a gentle heart. He was a dedicated public servant who worked his way up from a position as a security guard for a Michigan hospital, to a Wayne County sheriff's deputy, and ultimately a Dallas Police Department Officer. Officer Krol selflessly gave up his life in order to protect the crowds in Dallas from the violence.

July 14, 2016

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — *Extensions of Remarks*

E1137

Officer Krol is the third of four children. He leaves behind a loving family, close friends, and a long-term girlfriend. My most sincere

thoughts and prayers go out to his loved ones and friends.

Mr. Speaker, Dallas Police Chief David Brown said it best when he called police officers “guardians of this great democracy.” Offi-

cer Krol was nothing short of that and our city will forever remember him for giving his life to protect our friends, families, our communities, and our democracy.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate disagreed in the amendment of the House to S. 2943, National Defense Authorization Act, agreed to the request from the House for a conference, and appointed conferees.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5099–S5196

Measures Introduced: Seventy-four bills and nineteen resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3210–3283, S.J. Res. 37–38, S. Res. 535–548, and S. Con. Res. 48–50. **Pages S5154–57**

Measures Reported:

H.R. 1475, to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

H.R. 3004, to amend the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission.

S. Res. 485, to encourage the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to abide by constitutional provisions regarding the holding of presidential elections in 2016, with the aim of ensuring a peaceful and orderly democratic transition of power, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 515, welcoming Prime Minister Lee Hsien-Loong to the United States and reaffirming Singapore's strategic partnership with the United States, encompassing broad and robust economic, military-to-military, law enforcement, and counterterrorism cooperation.

S. Res. 524, expressing the sense of the Senate on the conflict in Yemen.

S. 3028, to redesignate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.

S. Con. Res. 41, expressing the sense of Congress on the Peshmerga of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, with amendments.

S. Con. Res. 42, to express the sense of Congress regarding the safe and expeditious resettlement to Albania of all residents of Camp Liberty.

S. Con. Res. 46, expressing support for the goal of ensuring that all Holocaust victims live with dignity, comfort, and security in their remaining years, and urging the Federal Republic of Germany to continue to reaffirm its commitment to comprehensively address the unique health and welfare needs of vulnerable Holocaust victims, including home care and other medically prescribed needs. **Page S5153**

Measures Passed:

Waterfront Community Revitalization and Resiliency Act: Senate passed S. 1935, to require the Secretary of Commerce to undertake certain activities to support waterfront community revitalization and resiliency, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S5117–19**

Making Electronic Government Accountable By Yielding Tangible Efficiencies Act: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4904, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue a directive on the management of software licenses, and the bill was then passed. **Page S5126**

National Sea Grant College Program Act: Senate passed S. 3282, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act. **Pages S5182–83**

Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. 2854, to reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S5183–85**

Murkowski (for Burr) Amendment No. 4975, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S5184–85**

Kevin and Avonte's Law: Senate passed S. 2614, to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, and to promote initiatives that will reduce the risk of injury and death relating to the wandering characteristics of some children with autism, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S5185**

Murkowski (for Grassley) Amendment No. 4976, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S5185**

PFC James Dunn VA Clinic: Senate passed S. 3283, to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Pueblo, Colorado, as the "PFC James Dunn VA Clinic". **Page S5185**

Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3700, to provide housing opportunities in the United States through modernization of various housing programs, and the bill was then passed. **Page S5185**

John F. Kennedy Centennial Commission: Senate passed H.R. 5722, to establish the John F. Kennedy Centennial Commission. **Page S5185**

Cruise Travel Professional Month: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 486, commemorating "Cruise Travel Professional Month" in October 2016, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S5185–86**

Murkowski (for Rubio) Amendment No. 4977, to amend the preamble. **Pages S5185–86**

Welcoming Prime Minister Lee Hsien-Loong to the United States: Senate agreed to S. Res. 515, welcoming Prime Minister Lee Hsien-Loong to the United States and reaffirming Singapore's strategic partnership with the United States, encompassing broad and robust economic, military-to-military, law enforcement, and counterterrorism cooperation. **Page S5186**

Peshmerga of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 41, expressing the sense of Congress on the Peshmerga of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, after agreeing to the committee amendments. **Pages S5186–87**

Expressing Support for All Holocaust Victims: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 46, expressing support for the goal of ensuring that all Holocaust victims live with dignity, comfort, and security in their re-

maining years, and urging the Federal Republic of Germany to continue to reaffirm its commitment to comprehensively address the unique health and welfare needs of vulnerable Holocaust victims, including home care and other medically prescribed needs. **Page S5187**

2024 Summer Olympic Games: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 142, supporting the bid of Los Angeles, California to bring the 2024 Summer Olympic Games back to the United States and pledging the cooperation of Congress with respect to that bid. **Page S5187**

National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 521, expressing support for the designation of September 2016 as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S5192**

Farm Credit System 100th Anniversary: Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 349, congratulating the Farm Credit System on the celebration of its 100th anniversary, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S5192**

Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act: Senate passed S. 1443, to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources. **Pages S5187–90**

Grand Ronde Reservation Act: Senate passed S. 818, to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S5190–91**

Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon: Senate passed S. 817, to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon. **Pages S5191–92**

Daniel J. Evans Olympic National Park Wilderness Act: Senate passed S. 3028, to redesignate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness. **Page S5192**

Jeanne and Jules Manford Post Office Building: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2607, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7802 37th Avenue in Jackson Heights, New York, as the "Jeanne and Jules Manford Post Office Building", and the bill was then passed. **Page S5192**

Chief Petty Officer Adam Brown United States Post Office: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3931, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 620 Central Avenue Suite 1A in Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas, as the “Chief Petty Officer Adam Brown United States Post Office”, and the bill was then passed. **Page S5192**

Private First Class Felton Roger Fussell Memorial Post Office: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3953, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4122 Madison Street, Elfers, Florida, as the “Private First Class Felton Roger Fussell Memorial Post Office”, and the bill was then passed. **Page S5192**

Ed Pastor Post Office: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4010, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 522 North Central Avenue in Phoenix, Arizona, as the “Ed Pastor Post Office”, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S5192–93**

Eugene J. McCarthy Post Office: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4425, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 110 East Powerhouse Road in Collegetown, Minnesota, as the “Eugene J. McCarthy Post Office”, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S5192–93**

Major Gregory E. Barney Post Office Building: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4747, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6691 Church Street in Riverdale, Georgia, as the “Major Gregory E. Barney Post Office Building”, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S5192–93**

Louis Van Iersel Post Office: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4761, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 61 South Baldwin Avenue in Sierra Madre, California, as the “Louis Van Iersel Post Office”, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S5192–93**

Amelia Boynton Robinson Post Office Building: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4777, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1301 Alabama Avenue in Selma, Alabama as the “Amelia Boynton

Robinson Post Office Building”, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S5192–93**

LCpl Garrett W. Gamble, USMC Post Office Building: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4877, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3130 Grants Lake Boulevard in Sugar Land, Texas, as the “LCpl Garrett W. Gamble, USMC Post Office Building”, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S5192–93**

Michael Garver Oxley Memorial Post Office Building: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4925, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 229 West Main Cross Street, in Findlay, Ohio, as the “Michael Garver Oxley Memorial Post Office Building”, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S5192–93**

Petty Officer 1st Class Caleb A. Nelson Post Office Building: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4975, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5720 South 142nd Street in Omaha, Nebraska, as the “Petty Officer 1st Class Caleb A. Nelson Post Office Building”, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S5192–93**

Sergeant First Class William ‘Kelly’ Lacey Post Office: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4987, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3957 2nd Avenue in Laurel Hill, Florida, as the “Sergeant First Class William ‘Kelly’ Lacey Post Office”, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S5192–93**

Mary E. McCoy Post Office Building: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5028, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10721 E Jefferson Ave in Detroit, Michigan, as the “Mary E. McCoy Post Office Building”, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S5192–93**

National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 538, designating September 2016 as “National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month”. **Pages S5193–94**

Condemning the Acts of Violence in Dallas, Texas: Senate agreed to S. Res. 539, condemning the horrific acts of violence and hatred in Dallas, Texas, on July 7, 2016, and expressing support and prayers for all those impacted by the tragedy. **Pages S5193–94**

Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service: Senate agreed to S. Res. 540, commending the officers of the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service for their work in fighting Ebola.

Pages S5193–94

Hawaii Volcanoes and Haleakala National Parks Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 541, recognizing the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and Haleakala National Park in the State of Hawaii, and designating August 1, 2016, as “Hawaii Volcanoes and Haleakala National Parks Day”.

Pages S5193–94

National Anti-Counterfeiting Consumer Education and Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 542, recognizing the 70th anniversary and the importance of the Lanham Act by designating July 2016 as “National Anti-Counterfeiting Consumer Education and Awareness Month”.

Pages S5193–94

United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams: Senate agreed to S. Res. 543, commemorating the past success of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams and supporting the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams in the 2016 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

Pages S5193–94

Open Skies Treaty: Senate agreed to S. Res. 544, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding compliance enforcement of Russian violations of the Open Skies Treaty.

Pages S5193–94

Leiomyosarcoma Awareness Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 545, supporting the designation of July 15, 2016, as “Leiomyosarcoma Awareness Day”.

Pages S5193–94

United States Grain Standards Act Centennial: Senate agreed to S. Res. 546, honoring the centennial of the United States Grain Standards Act.

Pages S5193–94

American Tree Farm System 75th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 547, recognizing the 75th anniversary of the American Tree Farm System.

Pages S5193–94

Viking Mission Landing on the Surface of Mars 40th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 548, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s Viking Mission Landing on the surface of Mars.

Pages S5193–94

Adjournment Resolution: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 50, providing for an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

Pages S5194–95

Measures Indefinitely Postponed:

Protecting Our Infants Act: Senate indefinitely postponed H.R. 1462, to combat the rise of prenatal opioid abuse and neonatal abstinence syndrome.

Page S5195

Measures Considered:

Department of Defense Appropriations Act—Cloture: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 5293, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017.

Page S5114–16

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2577, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016.

Page S5116

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

The motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on July 7, 2016, was agreed to.

Page S5116

The motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on July 7, 2016, was agreed to.

Page S5116

By 55 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 133), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having not voted in the affirmative, Senate upon reconsideration rejected the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill.

Page S5114

Conference Reports:

Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2577, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016.

Pages S5116–17

A motion was entered to close further debate on the conference report to accompany the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, July 14, 2016, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, September 6, 2016.

Page S5117

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

The motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on June 28, 2016, was agreed to. **Page S5116**

The motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on June 28, 2016, was agreed to. **Page S5116**

By 52 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. 134), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having not voted in the affirmative, Senate upon reconsideration rejected the motion to close further debate on the conference report to accompany the bill. **Page S5117**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3:00 p.m., on Tuesday, September 6, 2016, Senate resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2577; and that the pending cloture motions on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2577, and the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 5293, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, ripen at 5:30 p.m. **Page S5117**

House Messages:

National Defense Authorization Act: Senate disagreed in the amendment of the House to S. 2943, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, agreed to the request from the House for a conference, and appointed the following conferees: Senators McCain, Inhofe, Sessions, Wicker, Ayotte, Fischer, Cotton, Rounds, Ernst, Tillis, Sullivan, Lee, Graham, Cruz, Reed, Nelson, McCaskill, Manchin, Shaheen, Gillibrand, Blumenthal, Donnelly, Hirono, Kaine, King, and Heinrich, after taking action on the following motions to instruct conferees on the part of the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill to be instructed to insist on the inclusion in the final conference report the following motions proposed thereto: **Pages S5099–S5112**

Adopted:

By 84 yeas to 12 nays (Vote No. 131), Shaheen motion to Instruct Conferees to insist on the inclusion in the final conference report include language to extend the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa program through December 31, 2017 and authorize additional visas to ensure visas are available for applicants who meet the criteria under the program. **Pages S5111–12**

By 85 yeas to 12 nays (Vote No. 132), Sullivan motion to Instruct Conferees to insist on the inclusion in the final conference report include authorization for the following commitments recently made by the President and Secretary of Defense: Maintain-

ing a force of approximately 8,400 soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines within Afghanistan into 2017 as announced by President Obama on July 6th to continue to train and advise Afghan forces and to conduct counterterrorism operations; The President's budget request for the European Reassurance Initiative to establish increased rotational presence in Europe, provide ample United States Armed Forces end strength and combat capability to meet all regional contingency plans, increase operational responsiveness of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and to fulfill President Obama's commitment to move forward with the most significant reinforcement of collective defense anytime during the Cold War; Sufficient naval, air, ground and amphibious force structure and weapons systems to fulfill the commitment made by Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter at the Shangri-La Dialogue that within the Asia-Pacific theater, "the United States will remain the most powerful military and main underwriter of security in the region for decades to come"; and Sufficient levels of military forces, munitions, logistics support, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance assets, and other enabling support, and the deployment of sufficient operational capabilities to meet President Obama's commitment to go after ISIL aggressively until it's removed from Syria and Iraq and finally destroyed. **Pages S5112–14**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 90 yeas to 7 nays (Vote No. 130), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on McConnell motion to disagree in the amendment of the House, agree to the request from the House for a conference, and appointing of the following conferees: Senators McCain, Inhofe, Sessions, Wicker, Ayotte, Fischer, Cotton, Rounds, Ernst, Tillis, Sullivan, Lee, Graham, Cruz, Reed, Nelson, McCaskill, Manchin, Shaheen, Gillibrand, Blumenthal, Donnelly, Hirono, Kaine, King, and Heinrich. **Pages S5099, S5111**

Appointments:

Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico: The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 114–187, and in consultation with the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and with the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, appointed the following individuals as members of the Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico: Senator Hatch (Committee on Finance) and Senator Rubio (Committee on Energy and Natural Resources). **Page S5181**

National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity: The Chair announced, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 110–315, the reappointment of the following individual to be a member of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity: Jill Derby of Nevada. **Page S5181**

Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 94–201, as amended by Public Law 105–275, reappointed the following individual as a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress: Joanna Hess of New Mexico. **Page S5181**

Protecting Our Infants Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that H.R. 1462, to combat the rise of prenatal opioid abuse and neonatal abstinence syndrome, which was previously received from the House, be indefinitely postponed. **Page S5195**

Authorizing Leadership To Make Appointments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate. **Page S5195**

Authority for Committees—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the Senate's adjournment, committees be authorized to report legislative and executive matters on Tuesday, August 30, 2016, from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. **Page S5195**

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, July 15, 2016, 11:30 a.m.; Tuesday, July 19, 2016, 1 p.m.; Friday, July 22, 2016, 1 p.m.; Tuesday, July 26, 2016, 10 a.m.; Friday, July 29, 2016, 10 a.m.; Tuesday, August 2, 2016, 10 a.m.; Friday, August 5, 2016, 7:45 a.m.; Tuesday, August 9, 2016, 12:55 p.m.; Friday, August 12, 2016, 8 a.m.; Tuesday, August 16, 2016, 9 a.m.; Friday, August 19, 2016, 3 p.m.; Tuesday, August 23, 2016, 4 p.m.; Friday, August 26, 2016, 10 a.m.; Tuesday, August 30, 2016, 9 a.m.; Friday, September 2, 2016, 10 a.m.; and that when the Senate

adjourns on Friday, September 2, 2016, it next convene at 3 p.m., Tuesday, September 6, 2016.

Pages S5194–95

Treaties Approved: The following treaties having passed through their various parliamentary stages, up to and including the presentation of the resolution of ratification, upon division, two-thirds of the Senators present having voted in the affirmative, the resolutions of ratification were agreed to:

Extradition Treaty with the Dominican Republic (Treaty Doc. 114–10) as amended; and

Extradition Treaty with the Republic of Chile (Treaty Doc. 113–6) as amended. **Pages S5181–82**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Julius Lloyd Horwich, of Illinois, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Department of Education.

Thomas F. Scott Darling, III, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

Anne Hall, of Maine, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Lithuania.

Lawrence Robert Silverman, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the State of Kuwait.

Carol Z. Perez, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Chile.

Geoffrey R. Pyatt, of California, to be Ambassador to Greece.

Douglas Alan Silliman, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq.

Marie L. Yovanovitch, of Connecticut, to be Ambassador to Ukraine.

Blair Anderson, of California, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy. **Page S5182**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

David V. Brewer, of Oregon, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute for a term expiring September 17, 2019.

C. Peter Mahurin, of Kentucky, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2021.

Michael McWherter, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2021.

Joe H. Ritch, of Alabama, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2021.

Routine lists in the Army.

Pages S5195–96

Messages from the House:

Page S5150

Measures Referred:

Page S5151

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Page S5151

Enrolled Bills Presented:

Page S5151

Executive Communications:	Pages S5151–53
Petitions and Memorials:	Page S5153
Executive Reports of Committees:	Pages S5153–54
Additional Cosponsors:	Pages S5157–61
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:	Pages S5161–78
Additional Statements:	Pages S5148–50
Amendments Submitted:	Pages S5178–81
Authorities for Committees to Meet:	Page S5181
Privileges of the Floor:	Page S5181
Record Votes:	Five record votes were taken today. (Total—134) Pages S5111, S5112, S5113–14, S5114, 5117

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 9:05 p.m., until 11:30 a.m. on Friday, July 15, 2016. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5195.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

CYBERSECURITY AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine cybersecurity and United States national security, after receiving testimony from New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., New York; and Kenneth L. Wainstein, Cadwalader, Wickersham and Taft LLP, former Homeland Security Advisor to President George W. Bush and Assistant Attorney General for National Security, and Chris Inglis, United States Naval Academy, former Deputy Director of the National Security Agency, both of Washington, D.C.

FINANCIAL RISKS OF CHINA

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine evaluating the financial risks of China, after receiving testimony from Dennis C. Shea, Chairman, United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission; and Desmond Lachman, American Enterprise Institute, Thomas J. Gibson, American Iron and Steel Institute, and William T. Wilson, The Heritage Foundation, all of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. Res. 515, welcoming Prime Minister Lee Hsien-Loong to the United States and reaffirming Singapore's strategic partnership with the United

States, encompassing broad and robust economic, military-to-military, law enforcement, and counter-terrorism cooperation;

S. Res. 524, expressing the sense of the Senate on the conflict in Yemen;

S. Res. 485, to encourage the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to abide by constitutional provisions regarding the holding of presidential elections in 2016, with the aim of ensuring a peaceful and orderly democratic transition of power, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. Con. Res. 41, expressing the sense of Congress on the Peshmerga of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, with amendments;

S. Con. Res. 42, to express the sense of Congress regarding the safe and expeditious resettlement to Albania of all residents of Camp Liberty;

S. Con. Res. 46, expressing support for the goal of ensuring that all Holocaust victims live with dignity, comfort, and security in their remaining years, and urging the Federal Republic of Germany to continue to reaffirm its commitment to comprehensively address the unique health and welfare needs of vulnerable Holocaust victims, including home care and other medically prescribed needs; and

The nominations of Mark Sobel, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund, and Marie L. Yovanovitch, of Connecticut, to be Ambassador to Ukraine, Geoffrey R. Pyatt, of California, to be Ambassador to Greece, Anne Hall, of Maine, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Lithuania, Douglas Alan Silliman, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq, Peter Michael McKinley, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Federative Republic of Brazil, Lawrence Robert Silverman, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, and Carol Z. Perez, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Chile, all of the Department of State.

IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Iran nuclear agreement, after receiving testimony from Mark Dubowitz, Foundation for Defense of Democracies Center on Sanctions and Illicit Finance, Washington, D.C.; and Richard Nephew, Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs Center on Global Energy Policy, New York, New York.

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT IMPLEMENTATION

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Every Student Succeeds Act implementation, focusing on perspectives from education stakeholders on proposed

regulations, after receiving testimony from Stephen L. Pruitt, Kentucky Commissioner of Education, Frankfort; Linda Darling-Hammond, Learning Policy Institute, Palo Alto, California; Gail Pletnick, Dysart Unified School District, Surprise, Arizona; and Alison Harris Welcher, Project L.I.F.T., Charlotte, North Carolina.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Jennifer Klemetsrud Puhl, of North Dakota, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, Donald C. Coggins, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, and David C. Nye, to be United States District Judge for the District of Idaho.

ENTREPRENEURS AND STARTUP COMPANIES

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine how venture capitalists and angel investors fund entrepreneurs and startup companies, including S. 2670, to provide for the operation of micro unmanned aircraft systems, after receiving testimony from Scott Kupor, Andreessen Horowitz, Menlo Park, California, and Ali Behbahani, New Enterprise Associates, Timonium, Maryland, both on behalf of the National Venture Capital Association; Jeffrey Sohl, University of New Hampshire Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics Center for Venture Research, Durham; Michael J. Eckert, NO/LA Angel Network, New Orleans, Louisiana, on behalf of the Angel Capital Association; and Joseph L. Schocken, Broadmark Capital, LLC, Seattle, Washington.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 132 public bills, H.R. 5779–5911; and 10 resolutions, H.J. Res. 97; H. Con. Res. 147–148; and H. Res. 832–838, were introduced. **Pages H5005–12**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H5015–18**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

In the Matter of Allegations Related to Representative Ed Whitfield (H. Rept. 114–687);

H.R. 4202, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Fort Ontario in the State of New York (H. Rept. 114–688);

H.R. 4510, to insure adequate use and access to the existing Bolts Ditch headgate and ditch segment within the Holy Cross Wilderness in Eagle County, Colorado, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–689);

H.R. 4789, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a structure for visitor services on the Arlington Ridge tract, in the area of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–690);

H.R. 5199, to amend title 41, United States Code, to improve the manner in which Federal contracts for construction and design services are awarded, and to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for design and construction services procurements, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–691); and

H.R. 24, to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–692). **Page H5005**

Privileged Resolution—Intent to Offer: Representative Fleming announced his intent to offer a privileged resolution. **Page H4931**

Unanimous Consent Agreement: Agreed by unanimous consent that the question on adoption of a motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to S. 764 be subject to postponement as though under clause 8 of rule 20. **Page H4932**

National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act: The House agreed to the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to S. 764, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 306 yeas to 117 nays, Roll No. 466. **Pages H4932–39, H4964–65**

H. Res. 822, the rule providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the bill (S. 764) and providing for consideration of the bill (S. 304) was agreed to yesterday, July 13th.

Iran Accountability Act of 2016: The House passed H.R. 5631, to hold Iran accountable for its state sponsorship of terrorism and other threatening

activities and for its human rights abuses, by a yeand-nay vote of 246 yeas to 179 nays, Roll No. 467.

Pages H4939–57, H4965–66

H. Res. 819, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4992), (H.R. 5119), and (H.R. 5631) was agreed to Tuesday, July 12th.

United States Financial System Protection Act of 2016: The House passed H.R. 4992, to codify regulations relating to transfers of funds involving Iran, by a yeand-nay vote of 246 yeas to 181 nays, Roll No. 478.

Pages H4957–64, H4973

H. Res. 819, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4992), (H.R. 5119), and (H.R. 5631) was agreed to Tuesday, July 12th.

Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017: The House passed H.R. 5538, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, by a yeand-nay votes of 231 yeas to 196 nays, Roll No. 477. Consideration began Tuesday, July 12th.

Pages H4966–73

Rejected:

Beyer amendment (No. 98 printed in H. Rept. 114–683) that was debated on July 13th that sought to state none of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement or enforce section 120, 425, 426, or 427 (by a recorded vote of 178 yeas to 246 noes, Roll No. 468);

Page H4966

Capps amendment (No. 99 printed in H. Rept. 114–683) that was debated on July 13th that sought to prohibit funds to be used to process any application for a permit to drill or a permit to modify that would authorize use of hydraulic fracturing or acid well stimulation treatment in the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf (by a recorded vote of 172 yeas to 254 noes, Roll No. 469);

Page H4967

Grijalva amendment (No. 100 printed in H. Rept. 114–683) that was debated on July 13th that sought to prevent funds in the bill from being used to abolish law enforcement offices at the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service (by a recorded vote of 194 yeas to 233 noes, Roll No. 470);

Pages H4967–68

Lowenthal amendment (No. 102 printed in H. Rept. 114–683) that was debated on July 13th that sought to prevent funds from being used in contravention to a 2009 Interior Department Secretarial Order on climate change (by a recorded vote of 192 yeas to 233 noes, Roll No. 471);

Page H4968

Pocan amendment (No. 103 printed in H. Rept. 114–683) that was debated on July 13th that sought to protect the Administration's climate change and environmental sustainability executive order to ensure that no funds be used to weaken the executive

order within this Act (by a recorded vote of 191 yeas to 236 noes, Roll No. 472);

Pages H4968–69

Polis amendment (No. 104 printed in H. Rept. 114–683) that was debated on July 13th that sought to prohibit use of funds to pursue any additional legal ways to transfer Federal lands to private owners in contravention of existing law (by a recorded vote of 188 yeas to 239 noes, Roll No. 473);

Pages H4969–70

Tsongas amendment (No. 106 printed in H. Rept. 114–683) that was debated on July 13th that sought to prevent a provision of the bill that would block BLM resource management plans from going into effect if failing to implement the plans would limit BLM's ability to meet its multiple use obligations, including providing opportunities for hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation (by a recorded vote of 184 yeas to 241 noes, Roll No. 474);

Page H4970

Norcross amendment (No. 114 printed in H. Rept. 114–683) that was debated on July 13th that sought to add \$15,282,000 to the Hazardous Substance Superfund (by a recorded vote of 195 yeas to 232 noes, Roll No. 475); and

Pages H4970–71

Gallego amendment (No. 122 printed in H. Rept. 114–683) that was debated on July 13th that sought to prohibit funds from being used to issue grazing permits or leases in contravention of BLM regulations (by a recorded vote of 213 yeas to 214 noes, Roll No. 476).

Pages H4971–72

H. Res. 820, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5538) was agreed to Tuesday, July 12th.

Library of Congress Sound Recording and Film Preservation Programs Reauthorization Act of 2016: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass S. 2893, to reauthorize the sound recording and film preservation programs of the Library of Congress.

Pages H4973–74

Authorizing the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to provide playback equipment in all formats: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass S. 3207, to authorize the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to provide playback equipment in all formats.

Page H4974

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, July 18th.

Page H4974

Department of Veterans Affairs Dental Insurance Reauthorization Act of 2016: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass S. 3055, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a dental insurance plan to veterans and survivors and dependents of veterans.

Page H4974

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate today appear on pages H4939 and H4984.

Senate Referrals: S. 2893 and S. 3207 were held at the desk. S. 1555 was referred to the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on House Administration. Page H5002

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes and nine recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4964–65, H4965–66, H4966, H4967, H4967–68, H4968, H4969, H4969–70, H4970, H4970–71, H4971–72, H4972–73, and H4973. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Full Committee concluded a markup on the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill for FY 2017; and Report on the Revised Interim Suballocation of Budget Allocations for FY 2017. The Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill for FY 2017 was ordered reported, as amended. The Report on the Revised Interim Suballocation of Budget Allocations for FY 2017 passed.

NAVAL DOMINANCE IN UNDERSEA WARFARE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces held a hearing entitled “Naval Dominance in Undersea Warfare”. Testimony was heard from Rear Admiral Charles A. Richard, USN, Director, Undersea Warfare Division (N97), U.S. Navy; and Rear Admiral Michael E. Jabaley, USN, Program Executive Officer for Submarines, U.S. Navy.

PRESIDENT OBAMA’S NUCLEAR DETERRENT MODERNIZATION PLANS AND BUDGETS: THE MILITARY REQUIREMENTS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a hearing entitled “President Obama’s Nuclear Deterrent Modernization Plans and Budgets: The Military Requirements”. Testimony was heard from Frank Klotz, Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration; Robert Scher, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities, Department of Defense; Admiral Cecil Haney, USN, Commander, U.S. Strategic Command; and General Robin Rand, USAF, Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee concluded a markup on H.R. 5510, the “FTC Process and Transparency Reform Act of 2016”. H.R. 5510 was ordered reported, as amended”.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a markup on H. Res. 634, recognizing the importance of the United States-Republic of Korea-Japan trilateral relationship to counter North Korean threats and nuclear proliferation, and to ensure regional security and human rights; H. Res. 660, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives to support the territorial integrity of Georgia; H. Res. 728, supporting human rights, democracy, and the rule of law in Cambodia; H. Res. 729, expressing support for the expeditious consideration and finalization of a new, robust, and long-term Memorandum of Understanding on military assistance to Israel between the United States Government and the Government of Israel; H. Res. 750, urging the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization and increase pressure on it and its members; H. Res. 780, urging respect for the constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the democratic transition of power in 2016; H. Res. 808, calling on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to release Iranian-Americans Siamak Namazi and his father, Baquer Namazi; H. Res. 810, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the life and work of Elie Wiesel in promoting human rights, peace, and Holocaust remembrance; H. Res. 821, urging the Government of Gabon to respect democratic principles during the August 2016 presidential elections; H.R. 4481, the “Education for All Act of 2016”; H.R. 5094, the “Stability and Democracy for Ukraine Act”; H.R. 5537, the “Digital Global Access Policy Act of 2016”; and H.R. 5732, the “Caesar Syrian Civilian Protection Act of 2016”. The following legislation was ordered reported, as amended: H. Res. 634, H. Res. 728, H. Res. 780, H. Res. 810, H. Res. 821, H.R. 4481, H.R. 5537, H.R. 5732, and H.R. 5094. The following legislation was ordered reported, without amendment: H. Res. 660, H. Res. 729, H. Res. 750, and H. Res. 808.

THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING A STRONGER U.S.-CARIBBEAN PARTNERSHIP

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere held a hearing entitled “The Strategic Importance of Building a Stronger U.S.-Caribbean Partnership”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.’

U.S. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA: MINIMIZING RISKS AND IMPROVING OVERSIGHT

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa held a hearing entitled “U.S. Humanitarian Assistance to Syria: Minimizing Risks and Improving Oversight”. Testimony was heard from Thomas Melito, Director, International Affairs and Trade, Government Accountability Office; and Calvaresi Barr, Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Agency for International Development.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE; HOPE DEFERRED: SECURING ENFORCEMENT OF THE GOLDMAN ACT TO RETURN ABDUCTED AMERICAN CHILDREN

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a markup on H. Res. 290, calling for the global repeal of blasphemy laws; and a hearing entitled “Hope Deferred: Securing Enforcement of the Goldman Act to Return Abducted American Children”. H. Res. 290 was forwarded to the full committee, as amended. Testimony was heard from Karen Christensen, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department of State; and public witnesses.

WORLDWIDE THREATS TO THE HOMELAND: ISIS AND THE NEW WAVE OF TERROR

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Worldwide Threats to the Homeland: ISIS and the New Wave of Terror”. Testimony was heard from Jeh C. Johnson, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security; Nicholas J. Rasmussen, Director, National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; and James B. Comey, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice held a hearing on S. 2040, the “Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act”. Testimony was heard from Anne Patterson, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Department of State; Brian Egan, Legal Advisor, Department of State; and public witnesses.

THE STATUS OF IVANPAH AND OTHER FEDERAL LOAN-GUARANTEED SOLAR ENERGY PROJECTS ON BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LANDS

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled

“The Status of Ivanpah and Other Federal Loan-Guaranteed Solar Energy Projects on Bureau of Land Management Lands”. Testimony was heard from Mike Nedd, Assistant Director, Energy Minerals, and Realty Management, Bureau of Land Management; and public witnesses.

RECALCITRANT COUNTRIES: DENYING VISAS TO COUNTRIES THAT REFUSE TO TAKE BACK THEIR DEPORTED NATIONALS

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Recalcitrant Countries: Denying Visas to Countries that Refuse to Take Back their Deported Nationals”. Testimony was heard from Michele Thoren Bond, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department of State; and Daniel Ragsdale, Deputy Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security.

EXAMINING MISMANAGEMENT IN OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS GRANTMAKING

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing entitled “Examining Mismanagement in Office of Justice Programs Grantmaking”. Testimony was heard from Michael E. Horowitz, Inspector General, Department of Justice; Beth McGarry, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice; Gretta Goodwin, Acting Director, Homeland Security and Justice, Government Accountability Office; and a public witness.

LAGGING BEHIND: THE STATE OF HIGH SPEED RAIL IN THE UNITED STATES

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Transportation and Public Assets held a hearing entitled “Lagging Behind: The State of High Speed Rail in the United States”. Testimony was heard from Sarah Feinberg, Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration; Chris Koos, Mayor, Normal, Illinois; and public witnesses.

EVALUATING FDIC'S RESPONSE TO MAJOR DATA BREACHES: IS THE FDIC SAFEGUARDING CONSUMERS' BANKING INFORMATION?

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Evaluating FDIC's Response to Major Data Breaches: Is the FDIC Safeguarding Consumers' Banking Information?”. Testimony was heard from Martin Gruenberg, Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; and Fred W. Gibson, Acting Inspector General, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

**MODERNIZING SOCIAL SECURITY'S
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
INFRASTRUCTURE**

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Social Security held a hearing entitled “Modernizing Social Security’s Information Technology Infrastructure”. Testimony was heard from Robert Klopp, Deputy Commissioner, Chief Information Officer, Social Security Administration; Kimberly Byrd, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit, Financial Systems and Operations Audits, Office of the Inspector General, Social Security Administration; Valerie Melvin, Director, Information Management and Technology Resources Issues, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY,
JULY 15, 2016**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on National Security; and Subcommittee on Transportation and Public Assets, joint hearing entitled “Oversight of the Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Program”, 9 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

11:30 a.m., Friday, July 15

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2:30 p.m., Monday, July 18

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

House Chamber

Program for Monday: House will meet in a Pro Forma session at 2:30 p.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Benishek, Dan, Mich., E1125
 Bishop, Sanford D., Jr., Ga., E1122, E1125
 Blumenauer, Earl, Ore., E1129
 Bonamici, Suzanne, Ore., E1115, E1132
 Bordallo, Madeleine Z., Guam, E1123
 Boyle, Brendan F., Pa., E1135
 Brady, Kevin, Tex., E1135
 Brooks, Susan W., Ind., E1122
 Buck, Ken, Colo., E1122
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 Capps, Lois, Calif., E1130
 Carney, John C., Jr., E1136
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