WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2017

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 14, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER
The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:
We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day.
We commend to You the Members of Congress, the President, his Cabinet, and all who struggle to lead Your people. May they acknowledge Your sovereignty over all events and times.

Renew America in confident faith and deepen our commitment to seek peace—help us to work together when confronting those whom we find it difficult to trust, but with whom we must try to forge a common future of security and prosperity.

In all, inspire the Members of this people's House with Your spirit, that all might seek to find first areas of agreement where possible, and openness to honest exchange where it is not.

May all that is done within the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.
Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BOST 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 PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to advocate for the victims of human trafficking and for the law enforcement and organizations who are on the front lines combating this growing problem. Human trafficking is a growing problem in Illinois where we rank ninth in the Nation in reported trafficking cases.

Cases are on the rise nationwide. As a father of three and grandfather of 11, I am angry. We must wipe out this evil before it does any more harm.

I am proud that Republicans and Democrats came together to pass three antitrafficking bills this week.

Our work is far from over, but these bills are vitally important to help protect American families.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD DEWITT SMITH
(Mr. BUTTERFIELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to recognize Richard DeWitt Smith, a native of my home State of North Carolina and a graduate of our alma mater, North Carolina Central University.

Tomorrow night, Richard will be honored by the NCCU Alumni Association with the prestigious Alumni Founder's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Richard is most deserving of this great honor. Since graduating in 1981, Richard has been a dedicated alumnus to the university, always exemplifying our motto of Truth and Service.

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.

Printed on recycled paper.
Richard continues to serve NCCU and its alumni community in numerous capacities at the local, State, and national levels. He gives of his time, talent, and resources to help students from across the country succeed in obtaining a quality education from Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Richard Smith has been married to Jacqueline Beatty Smith for 28 years. They met 40 years ago as NCCU students.

Mr. Speaker, time does not permit me to fully describe Richard’s many other contributions; but suffice it to say that Richard Smith is most deserving of this high honor—the NCCU Alumni Association 2017 Alumnus Founder’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

I am proud of Richard Smith, and I thank him for his extraordinary work. I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating this great American hero.

HEALTHCARE TOWNHALLS

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, 118,000—the number of people in my district alone who will lose healthcare if TrumpCare passes. 250—the number of people who joined me for a healthcare townhall on Monday in Charlotte. Zero—the number of public hearings the Senate has held on TrumpCare.

Despite the potential for 22 million people who will lose their healthcare if TrumpCare passes, Senator McCONNELL hasn’t asked to hear from any of them.

On Monday, I held a townhall where my constituents shared their stories and asked that I share them with you. Katie Mpelkas, a mother of a 3-year-old with autism, relies on Medicaid for her son’s healthcare. She is terrified at the thought that without Medicaid coverage her son won’t get the care he needs.

Adrienne Gonzalez’s son, diagnosed with autism at age 2, has been receiving care paid for by Medicaid since he was 11 months old. Sadly, their stories aren’t unique. Thirty-nine percent of children are on Medicaid for the care they need, and TrumpCare cuts the program by 35 percent by 2026.

Our constituents are begging for help. It is our responsibility to fight for them.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Bost). Pursuant to House Resolution 440 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. 2810.

Will the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) kindly take the chair.

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. 2018) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, with Mr. SIMPSON (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole House rose on Thursday, July 13, 2017, a second set of amendments en bloc, offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORN-BERRY) had been disposed of.

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 16 printed in House Report 115–217.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MR. BYRNE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 17 printed in House Report 115–217.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chairman, I rise as the designee of the gentlwoman from Florida, and I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title XXXV add the following:

SEC. 510. APPLICATION OF LAW.

Section 5031 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) For purposes of any Federal law except the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), any vessel, including a foreign vessel, being repaired or dismantled is deemed to be a recreational vessel, as defined under section 2103(25), during such repair or dismantling, if that vessel—

“(1) shares elements of design and construction of traditional recreational vessels (as so defined); and

“(2) when operating is not normally engaged in a military, commercial, or traditionally commercial undertaking.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 440, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment that is offered by my good friend from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE).

I would just note that this is an amendment that has been around the last couple Congresses, and the intent clearly is to carve out a larger exemption from the longshoremen’s act which is a law that goes back to 1927.

I would note that if that is the intent, the language of this amendment actually is kind of like legislating with a chainsaw instead of a scalpel because by carving out a larger exemption for recreational vessels above or beyond 55 feet long, basically there is a whole series of Coast Guard rules and regulations that have been enforced by the Coast Guard for many years that this amendment, unfortunately, is going to sweep up and undermine, including the rules related to alcohol on board vessels, waste management, Coast Guard inspection categories, vessel sales to non-U.S. citizens, tonnage taxes, and safety management systems.

The Coast Guard is out there every single day making sure that these rules which really protect our ports and make sure that particularly foreign, and large, super yachts are paying their fair share, in terms of the costs of environmental protection, and boating safety is enforced. That is, again, what this amendment will undermine.

That is why last Congress the Coast Guard issued a statement pointing out the fact that because of the broad sweep of the language of this amendment, it is really undermining some key missions that the Coast Guard has been doing for decades for the American people.

So I would note that, at the outset, obviously there is, I think, another
The amendment shifts workers who repair super yachts and large, luxury watercraft out of coverage under the Longshore and Harbor Workers’ Compensation Act and into coverage under State workers’ compensation programs. However, it doesn’t just amend the longshoremen act. Rather, it creates a problem with the Coast Guard law. The Coast Guard opposed an identical amendment last year because it creates widespread damage to Coast Guard regulatory and enforcement authority and implicates U.S. treaty obligations, and could affect the collection of tonnage taxes on foreign flagged vessels.

The Department of Labor also opposes the amendment because it could lead to uncertainty and foster litigation under the longshoremen coverage. Moreover, by shifting workers out of longshoremen into the weak State workers’ comp laws such as Florida, it could permanently impoverish workers.

Last year, the Florida Supreme Court held that the Florida workers’ compensation law was so anemic that it was unconstitutional. If the goal is to provide reasonable insurance rates, then it should be in the insurance industry not by complicating the Coast Guard, by complicating the Department of Labor, and denying workers their benefits under the Longshoremen’s Compensation Act.

Mr. Chairman, I include in the RECORD a letter from the Committee on Education and the Workforce opposing this amendment.

MEMBER SLAUGHTER: I am writing to request an opinion and a letter from the Committee on Rules, the Committee on Education and the Workforce, the American Shipbuilding Association, and the Coast Guard on Amendment 302.

Committee on Education and the Workforce: House of Representatives.

Washington, DC, July 12, 2017.

Hon. Pete Sessions,
Chairman, Committee on Rules,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. Louise M. Slaughter,
Ranking Member, Committee on Rules,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SESSIONS AND RANKING MEMBER SLAUGHTER: I am writing to request that you not make Amendment 302 in order as part of the rule for the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 2810).

The amendment offered by Representatives Frankel and Byrne changes the definition of a “recreational vessel” under U.S. Coast Guard law. The proposed amendment contains no provision that would define what a recreational vessel is under the Longshoremen’s Act. Rather, it changes the definition of “recreational vessel” under Section 4301 of Title 46 (the Federal Boating Act of 1971). Amendment 302, if adopted, would remove a federal minimum standard. That is really something that has obviously withstood the test of time over the last 90 years.

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

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman. He and I have worked together on building issues a lot of times, and I appreciate his leadership in that industry. These are commercial and recreational vessels. They are small companies doing small things on different types of vessels than the one that Mr. COURTNEY and I are typically working together on. So trying to apply the same rules when it is a completely different activity to where, when we are usually talking about very large ships, it just doesn’t make any sense.

This has traditionally been a Democratic amendment. I have always supported it. I am happy to be here to support it today. I would like for us to continue our tradition of bipartisanship on this issue.

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) who is a colleague from another great shipbuilding district and also the ranking member of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) objected to this provision in the last Congress, as it would “lead to uncertainty and foster litigation regarding Longshore Act coverage” because the definition of “recreational” vessel introduces subjective criteria.

This identical amendment was included in the previously recommended amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (this set of views applied to the identical language included in Amendment 302 that was adopted in Section 1273 of the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act).
The change in the definition would also be construed to allow foreign flagged vessels to avoid the requirements to maintain a safety management system onboard under 46 U.S.C. § 3001. Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Alabama will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. HUNTER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 18 printed in House Report 115–217.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title XXXV add the following:

SEC. 3. RECURSE FOR NON-U.S. SEAMEN.

Section 37103 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

(‘‘g’’ RESTRICTION.—(1) Notwithstanding section 30104, a claim for damages or expenses related to personal injury, illness, or death of a seaman who is a citizen of a foreign nation, arising during or from the engagement of the seaman by or for a passenger vessel duly registered under the laws of a foreign nation or a vessel identified as obsolete under subsection (a) or acquired under chapter 563, may not be brought under the laws of the United States if—

(A) such seaman was not a legal permanent resident of the United States at the time the claim arose;

(B) the injury, illness, or death arose outside the territorial waters of the United States; and

(C) the seaman or the seaman’s personal representative has or had a right to seek compensation for the injury, illness, or death in, or under the laws of—

(i) the nation in which the vessel was registered at the time; or

(ii) the nation in which the seaman maintained citizenship or residency at the time the claim arose.

(2) COMPENSATION DEFINED.—As used in paragraph (1), the term ‘‘compensation’’ means—

(A) a statutory workers’ compensation remedy that complies with Standard A.4.2 of Regulation 4.2 of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006; or

(B) in the absence of the remedy described in paragraph (A), the legal remedy that complies with Standard A.4.2 of Regulation 4.2 of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, that permits recovery for lost wages, pain and suffering, medical expenses.’’

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 440, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, this important amendment would help safeguard U.S. courts against crowding of court dockets by foreign maritime contracts. It simply clarifies where the claim must be brought when the case has no meaningful connection to the United States.

Specifically, the amendment limits the ability of foreign seafarers working on foreign ships in foreign waters to sue in U.S. courts when a remedy is available in their home countries or the country of the ship on which they served. If no such remedy is available abroad, the amendment would allow those seafarers to file suit in the United States, assuming they could meet the same burden needed to file any other suit.

To be clear, again, this amendment in no way restricts a foreign crewmember’s access to judicial relief if they are injured or suffer some other damage as a result of working on a foreign vessel. It simply says that they need to seek relief in their home country or the home country of the vessel on which they served before seeking relief in U.S. courts.

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this pernicious antilabor amendment that would do nothing but make it easier for U.S.-owned but foreign-flagged cruise ship operators to exploit and abuse the seafarers they employ.

The right for seafarers to seek maintenance and cure for injuries, illness, and damages at sea has been a part of U.S. maritime law for as long as U.S. ships have flown the flag on the high seas.

The effect of this amendment is clear: it would restrict foreign seafarers employed on foreign-flagged cruise ships from filing claims for damages or expenses related to personal injury, illness, or even death, in a U.S. court.

This provision is completely contrary to a general maritime law principle that has been around since at least the 12th century, a principle that has remained applicable because of the international nature of shipping and the plain fact that, even today, ship operators maintain considerable leverage over individual seafarers.

This provision also violates an international convention that the U.S. has ratified. Under the Shipowners’ Liability Convention, national laws or regulations have to be interpreted and enforced to ensure equality of treatment to all seafarers, irrespective of nationality, domicile, or race. This amendment would shred that international obligation.

It is also contrary to the principles and terms, defining seafarers’ rights under the International Maritime Labor Convention.

It is also worth mentioning that the amendment before us may be unnecessary because, in many cases, seafarer contracts contain binding arbitration clauses.

In any event, it makes no sense to deny access to U.S. courts for foreign
seafarers seeking compassion for maintenance and cure claims. The cruise lines can easily avoid frivolous lawsuits. All they need do is honor their longstanding customary responsibility to pay for the care and recovery of the seafarers they employ when they are ill or injured.

In closing, no one has provided any evidence—much less, compelling evidence—to justify the reversal of longstanding seafarer protections. In the absence of evidence, the House should reject this amendment.

This vote is purely to injure seafarers, purely to disobey maritime conventions to which we are a party, purely to disobey laws of the sea from the 12th century that we have obeyed since we obtained our independence from England, for no purpose other than to help often American-owned—not always—but foreign-flagged cruise ship lines.

There is no purpose for this amendment. The House should reject this amendment as it has in the past.

Mr. Chairman, I urge a "no" vote, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida [Ms. WILSON].

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, today, I join with my colleague and friend, Representative DUNCAN HUNTER, in offering an amendment to the maritime administration title in the NDAA.

The cruise industry, which is a vital source of economic opportunity for my constituents, has come to me with concerns about lawsuits it says are clogging U.S. courts and making it more difficult to conduct business and create opportunities in my district and elsewhere.

I take these concerns seriously and want to help address them, but I also want to make sure that they are protected by the laws that we don’t take away the few that they have. I urge opposition to this amendment.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California has 2 3/4 minutes remaining.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

This amendment limits the ability of foreign seafarers to sue in the U.S. courts when a remedy is available in their home country. The only place they can sue is where the ship is located. They can no longer sue where they work. It is that simple.

Again, a foreign mariner operating in foreign waters to sue in U.S. courts when a remedy is available in their home country or the country where the ship is located will not help those who work on these ships. It will not help America or the cruise industry.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the gentleman from California's request, the amendment is laid on the table.
Emmer amendment, which would simply create a service medal to be awarded to atomic veterans or their surviving family members in honor of their service and sacrifice to our Nation.

Between 1945 and 1962, about 225,000 members of our Armed Forces participated in hundreds of nuclear weapons tests. Now known as atomic veterans, these GIs were placed in extremely dangerous areas and were constantly exposed to potentially dangerous levels of radiation. Their work was dangerous and their duties. They were sworn to secrecy, unable to even talk to their doctors about their past exposure to radiation.

Thankfully, Presidents Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush recognized the atomic veterans’ value and service and acted to provide specialized care and compensation for their harrowing duty.

In 2007, our allies, Great Britain, New Zealand, and Australia, enacted their versions of this amendment by authorizing a medal to honor their atomic veterans who served with the United States.

Regrettably, the Pentagon remains silent on honoring the service of our atomic veterans, arguing that to do so would diminish the service of other military personnel who are tasked with dangerous missions. Mr. Chairman, this is a pitiful excuse.

Tragically, more than 75 percent of atomic veterans have already passed away, never having received this recognition. They served honorably and put their lives on the line to protect the freedoms and liberties we enjoy each and every day.

I am honored to work with Mr. McGovern and our colleagues here in the House to ensure these brave soldiers get the recognition they deserve.

Again, I want to thank Congressman McGovern for his efforts on this issue as well as to thank Chairman Thornberry, Ranking Member Smith, and the entire staff of the House Armed Services Committee for their work on the underlying bill, and I urge adoption of this amendment.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, even though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I think it is important that we show a strong bipartisan vote on this. So I will make a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGovern) will be postponed.

AMENDMENTS IN BLOC NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. THORNBERRY OF TEXAS

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to House Resolution 440, I offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 3 consisting of amendment Nos. 16, 49, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, and 71 printed in House Report 115–278, offered by Mr. THORNBERRY OF TEXAS.

AMENDMENT NO. 36 OFFERED BY MR. DESJARLAIS OF TENNESSEE

At the end of subtitle B of title XXXI, add the following new section:

SEC. 3124. ANNUAL REPORTS ON UNFUNDED PRIORITIES OF THE NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.

(a) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 10 days after the date on which the budget of the President for a fiscal year is submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, the Administrator for Nuclear Security shall submit to the Secretary of Energy and the congressional defense committees a report on the unfunded priorities of the National Nuclear Security Administration.

(b) ELEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each report under subsection (a) shall specify, for each unfunded priority, covered by such report, the following:

(A) A summary description of such priority, including the objectives to be achieved if such priority is funded (whether in whole or in part).

(B) The additional amount of funds recommended in connection with the objectives under subparagraph (A).

(C) Account information with respect to such priority.

(d) PRIORITIZATION OF PRIORITIES.—Each report shall present the unfunded priorities covered by such report in order of urgency of priority.

(e) UNFUNDED PRIORITY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘‘unfunded priority’’, in the case of a fiscal year, means a program, activity, or mission requirement that—

(1) is not funded in the budget of the President for the fiscal year as submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31;
(2) is necessary to fulfill a requirement associated with the National Nuclear Security Administration; and
(3) would have been recommended for funding through the budget referred to in paragraph (1) by the Administrator in connection with the budget if—

(A) additional resources had been available for the budget to fund the program, activity, or mission requirement; or
(B) the program, activity, or mission requirement has emerged since the budget was formulated.

AMENDMENT NO. 54 OFFERED BY MR. BERA OF CALIFORNIA

The amendment as modified is as follows:

SEC. 725. REPORT.

For each of the fiscal years 2018 through 2021, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report on the development of the Military Health System Genesis.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 403(b) of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the heading, by inserting “and the Virgin Islands” after “the United States”;
(2) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and the Virgin Islands” after “the United States”; and
(3) in paragraphs (2), (3)(A), and (6), by inserting “or the Virgin Islands” after “the United States” each place it appears.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 403(c) of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the heading, by inserting “or the Virgin Islands” after “the United States”; and
(2) in paragraphs (1), (2), (3)(A)(i), and (3)(B), by inserting “or the Virgin Islands” after “the United States” each place it appears.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply to payments under section 403 of title 37, United States Code, beginning on January 1, 2018.

AMENDMENT NO. 55 OFFERED BY MS. KUSTER OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following new section:

SEC. 7. INCREASED COLLABORATION WITH NIH TO COMBAT TRIPLE NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER.

The Office of Health of the Department of Defense shall work in collaboration with the National Institutes of Health to—

(1) identify specific genetic and molecular targets and biomarkers for triple negative breast cancer; and
(2) provide information useful in biomarker selection, drug discovery, and clinical trials design that will enable both—

(A) triple negative breast cancer patients to be identified earlier in the progression of their disease; and
(B) the development of multiple targeted therapies for the disease.

AMENDMENT NO. 57 OFFERED BY MR. SOTO OF NEW MEXICO

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following new section:

SEC. 725. ENCOURAGING TRANSITION OF MILITARY TACTICAL, THERAPEUTICAL, AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES INTO EMPLOYMENT WITH VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Director of National Intelligence, a program to enhance the hiring of veterans in the Armed Forces with a military occupational specialty relating to the provision of health care to seek employment with the Veterans Health Administration when the individual has been discharged or released from service in the Armed Forces or is contemplating separating from such service.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to—

(1) restrict the employment of any employee of the National Intelligence; or
(2) circumvent any existing requirement relating to a detail, reassignment, or other transfer of such a former member to the Veterans Health Administration.

AMENDMENT NO. 58 OFFERED BY MR. CONWAY OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle D of title VIII, add the following new section:

SEC. 8. PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTING WITH CERTAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROVIDERS.

(a) LIST OF COVERED CONTRACTORS.—Not later than 30 days after the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall develop a list of covered contractors, to be updated as frequently as the Director determines appropriate, and shall make such list available to the Secretary of Defense.

(b) PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTS.—The Secretary of Defense may not enter into a contract with a covered contractor on the list described in subsection (a).

(c) REMOVAL FROM LIST.—To be removed from the list described in subsection (a), a covered contractor may submit a request to the Director in such manner as the Director determines appropriate. Upon certification of the request, the Director shall remove the covered contractor from the list.

(d) WAIVER.—The President may waive the requirements of subsection (b) if the President determines that the waiver is justified for national security reasons.

(e) COVERED CONTRACTOR DEFINED.—The term “covered contractor” means a provider of telecommunications or telecommunication equipment that has been found by the Director to have knowingly assisted or facilitated a cyber attack carried out by or on behalf of the government of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea or persons associated with such government.

SEC. 725. REQUIREMENTS.

(a) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Director of National Intelligence, shall conduct an
assessment of trade between the People's Republic of China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including elements deemed to be important to United States national security and defense.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The assessment required by paragraph (1) shall—
(a) assess the composition of all trade between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including trade in goods and services;
(b) identify whether any Chinese commercial entities that are engaged in such trade materially support illicit activities on the part of North Korea;
(c) evaluate the extent to which the United States procures goods or services from any commercial entity identified under subparagraph (B);
(d) provide a list of commercial entities identified under subparagraph (B) that provide defense goods or services for the Department of Defense; and
(e) evaluate the ramifications to United States national security, including any impacts to the defense industrial base, Department of Defense acquisition programs, and Department of Defense logistics or supply chain continuity, of prohibiting procurements from a Chinese commercial entity listed under subparagraph (D).

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report on the assessment required by paragraph (1). The report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(b) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Defense may terminate existing contracts or prohibit the awarding of contracts for the procurement of goods or services for the Department of Defense from a Chinese commercial entity listed under subsection (a)(2)(D) based on a determination by the assessment required under subsection (a).

(c) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a notification of each determination made under paragraph (1) that is based on an assessment that is not classified.

(d) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—
(1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and
(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 61 OFFERED BY MS. VELÁZQUEZ OF NEW YORK

At the end of subtitle C of title VIII, add the following new section:

SEC. 90A. EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN CONTRACTS FROM INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS.

Subparagraph (B) of section 1908(b)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting "3131 to 3134," after "sections":

AMENDMENT NO. 62 OFFERED BY MRS. MURPHY OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle C of title VIII, insert the following:

SEC. 8. INCLUSION OF SBIR AND STTR PROGRAMS IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Subsection (c) of section 2418 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—
(1) by striking "issued under" and inserting the following: "issued—
"(1) under;"
(2) by striking "and on" and inserting ", and on;"
(3) by striking "requirements," and inserting "requirements; and;" and
(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:
"(2) under section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638), and on compliance with those authorities.

AMENDMENT NO. 68 OFFERED BY MR. FITZPATRICK OF PENNSYLVANIA

Page 345, after line 13, insert the following new section:

SEC. 924. COMPLETION OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DIRECTIVE 2310.07E REGARDING MISSING PERSONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall make the completion of Department of Defense Directive 2310.07E a top priority in order to improve the efficiency of locating missing persons.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term "missing person" has the meaning given such term in section 1513 of title 10, United States Code.

AMENDMENT NO. 64 OFFERED BY MR. SOTO OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle C of title IX, insert the following:

SEC. 9 . RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEVELOPMENTAL TEST AND EVALUATION WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

(a) BRIEFING REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary of Defense shall make the completion of Department of Defense Directive 2310.07E a top priority in order to improve the efficiency of locating missing persons.

(b) DEFENSE.—In general.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide a briefing to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on a strategy to ensure that there is sufficient expertise, oversight, and policy direction on developmental test and evaluation with the Office of the Secretary of Defense after the completion of the reorganization of such Office required under section 901 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 130 Stat. 2359).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The briefing required by paragraph (1) shall address the following:
(A) The structure of the roles and responsibilities of the senior Department of Defense official responsible for developmental test and evaluation.
(B) The location of the senior Department of Defense official responsible for developmental test and evaluation within the organizational structure of the Office of the Secretary of Defense.
(C) An estimate of personnel and other resources that should be made available to the senior Department of Defense official responsible for developmental test and evaluation.
(D) Methods to ensure that such official can provide independent expertise, oversight, and policy direction and guidance Department of Defense-wide.
(E) Methods to ensure that the senior Department of Defense official responsible for developmental test and evaluation will be empowered to facilitate Department of Defense-wide efficiencies by helping programs to optimize test designs.
(F) Methods to ensure that an advocate for test and evaluation workforce will continue to exist within the acquisition workforce.

SEC. 9024. COMPLETION OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DIRECTIVE 2310.07E REGARDING MISSING PERSONS.

AMENDMENT NO. 66 OFFERED BY MR. SCHIFF OF CALIFORNIA

Page 359, after line 4, insert the following:

SEC. 1026. AUTORITY TO USE VIDEO TELECONFERENCING IN MILITARY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS.

Section 949d of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(a) USE OF VIDEO TELECONFERENCING.—The military judge may order arrangements for the use of video teleconferencing for any matter for which the accused, counsel, trial counsel, and any other participants by video teleconferencing for any matter for which the military judge may order arrangements for the availability of the proceeding to be watched remotely by the public through the internet.

AMENDMENT NO. 67 OFFERED BY MR. KILDEER OF MICHIGAN

Page 469, after line 17, add the following new paragraphs:
(6) The projected casualties and costs associated with the deployment of the Armed Forces to Afghanistan.
(7) The objectives of deployment of members of the Armed Forces to Afghanistan, including a time line for such objectives as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

AMENDMENT NO. 69 OFFERED BY MR. DRANEY OF MARYLAND

Page 375, after line 8, insert the following:

SEC. 1040. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS TO CLOSE BIOSAFETY LEVEL 4 LABORATORIES.

(a) LIMITATION.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated in this Act may be used to support the closure or transfer of a biosafety level 4 laboratory until the heads
of the Federal agencies that use the laboratory jointly certify to the covered congressional committees that the closure or transfer of the lab would not have a negative effect on the biological defense capabilities and would not result in a lapse of biological defense capabilities.

(b) COVERED CONGRESSIONAL COMMITEES.—In this section, the term ‘covered congressional committees’ means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives;
(2) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and House of Representatives;
(3) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and House of Representatives;
(4) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;
(5) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;
(6) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;
(7) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives;
(8) the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MRS. COMSTOCK OF VIRGINIA

Page 378, strike lines 19 through 23.
Page 396, after line 4, insert the following:
(5) STARBASE PROGRAM REPORT.—By inserting paragraph (6), as added by paragraph (4), the following new paragraph:"

(6) Section 2193b(g)."

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. CABRAJL OF CALIFORNIA

Page 383, lines 2 through 8, strike subsection (b) of section 101.
Page 386, after line 11, insert the following:

(y) PRESERVATION OF NATIONAL GUARD YOUTH CHALLENGE REPORT.—Effective as of December 23, 2016, and as if included therein as enacted, section 1061(i) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(31) Section 569(k) of title 32, United States Code."

Page 396, line 12, strike "(y)" and insert "(y)".
Page 396, line 13, strike "(w)" and insert "(w)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 440, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERY) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SMITH) each will control 10 minutes.

Mr. THORNBERY. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN).

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Chair, I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding, and I now look forward to entering into a discussion with Mr. POLIQUIN for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. POLIQUIN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WITTMAN. I yield to the gentleman from Maine.

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Chair, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman from Maine for working with the committee to improve this provision while maintaining progress towards strengthening our fleet in the critical ballistic missile defense mission and capability. Your amendment helps us do just that, while ensuring that we maintain the health and critical skill workforces at our two premier shipbuilders, including Bath Iron Works in Maine.

Mr. POLIQUIN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WITTMAN. I yield to the gentleman from Maine.

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairmen THORNBERY and Chairman WITTMAN for their support on my important amendment. Bath Iron Works is a critical national security asset to our country. It is a source of great pride for all Mainers, and the shipyard employs some 6,000 of our most talented, hardworking citizens who care greatly about their contributions every day to keeping America safe and bringing America strong.

Mr. SMITH of California. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mrs. MURPHY), a member of the Armed Services Committee.

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Chair, I thank my colleagues for including my amendment in this bloc.

My amendment authorizes Procurement Technical Assistance Centers to assist small business owners in pursuing funding opportunities during all phases of the SBIR and STTR programs.

These Federal programs enable small businesses to perform research and development that advances the national interests and has the potential for commercialization.

My central Florida district is home to a large and growing number of small firms that harness the power of technology, produce innovative products for customers in the public and private sector, and, in the process, create well-paying jobs and generate broad-based economic growth.

Mr. THORNBERY. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER).

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Chair, I would like to also thank Chairmen THORNBERY and Chairman SESSIONS for making my amendment in order and allowing floor consideration.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment is simple. It prohibits telecommunications companies that provide material support for North Korea cyber attacks from contracting with our Defense Department.

While my amendment is simple in nature, it strikes at the heart of what I believe to be the cornerstone of North Korea policy.

For far too long, China has enabled the North Korean Government to pursue nuclear development, global provocation, and egregious human rights violations. The Chinese Government is simply not a good faith partner on the issue of North Korea.

For example, there have been multiple public reports indicating that China’s largest government-affiliated telecommunications firm, Huawei, has been subpoenaed by the Commerce Department as part of an ongoing investigation into whether it broke our export control laws by conducting business with North Korea.

Additionally, earlier this year, a similar Chinese Government-affiliated firm, ZTE, was hit with a record-breaking billion-dollar fine in connection with comparable North Korea-related export violations.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment is one of many steps that our Congress needs to take to demonstrate to China we will no longer tolerate its alliance and partnership with North Korea.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

Mr. SMITH of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the majority for including my amendment in this bloc.

My amendment is straightforward, Mr. Chairman. It recognizes that any U.S. strategy for Syria must acknowledge and respond to the tremendous suffering of civilians. It is estimated that the millions who have been forced from their homes, who face starvation, cholera, a lack of access to adequate healthcare and education, not as an afterthought, but as an active imperative.

The Trump administration has already used the suffering created by the use of chemical weapons as a reason for expanding U.S. involvement in Syria and to launch attacks against the Syrian Government. My amendment would ask the administration for a description of the legal authority relied upon or needed for the use of U.S. military force in Syria, information which is even more critical now, given the recent attacks by U.S. forces against the Syrian Government and reports that we may continue to send more troops into Syria.

It is foolhardy and unwise for us to think that the suffering being imposed upon innocent civilians in Syria should not be a consideration in any U.S. response or strategy outlining how military forces or aid will be used there. The humanitarian crisis spawned by
Chairman THORNBERRY, Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM). Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman THORNBERRY, and I rise today in strong support of the Lamborn amendment requiring a report on Iran’s use of commercial aircraft to support terrorist groups in rogue regimes around the Middle East.

The Lamborn amendment delivers a simple message to Iran, to Assad, and all companies considering selling aircraft to the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism, and that is: Congress is watching.

Congress is watching midnight flights take off from military bases in Iran and land in war-torn Damascus carrying terrorists, guns, and explosives, which will only be used to shed more innocent blood in the Syrian civil war.

Congress is watching as Boeing and Airbus shake hands and cut deals with former leaders of Iran’s National Revolution of 1979, leaders like Hossein Alaei, CEO of Aseman Airlines, who has called to destroy U.S. naval ships sailing in international waters.

Congress is watching as iconic American and European companies are choosing to fuel Iran’s terror campaign around the world.

Mr. Chair, Congress is watching, and Congress will act to ensure that Western companies do not become complicit in the Syrian massacre.

Please support the Lamborn amendment.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT).

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Chair, I want to thank the chairman and ranking member for agreeing to include my amendment en bloc in the NDAA.

The truth is that we have is a transitioning of the Virgin Islands Active Guard and Reserve from overseas housing allowance to basic allowance for housing.

We know that, in 2013, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness reported that a change would be feasible and would not be difficult to allow Virgin Islands Active Guard and Reserve members to be part of the basic housing allowance.

Congress didn’t intend inequitable and unfair treatment to the Virgin Islands Active Guard and Reserve members, and this amendment provides an equitable solution to the disparate treatment of the housing allowance for Virgin Islands Active Guard and Reserve members.

We are grateful for the support and are thankful that our servicemembers will now, in their housing, be treated the same as those in the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JODY B. HICE).

Mr. HICE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendments offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DeSANTIS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER).

As we all know, North Korea has targeted the United States with cyber attacks, and they are well on their way to being able to strike the United States with conventional and nuclear weapons. These two amendments would prohibit the Department of Defense from contracting with American companies found to be complicit with North Korean cyber attacks or Chinese companies found to be providing support for the North Korean regime. There is no reason that we should be contracting with countries that are enemies of the United States.

I also support the amendment offered by my friend from Michigan (Mr. BISHOP). Without a doubt, NATO is the greatest military alliance in the world, but that alliance is most effectively when the members of those various countries are pulling their weight and fulfilling their commitments in regard to their own defense budgets. This amendment calls on the President to encourage NATO allies to fulfill their commitments and recognize those who are currently doing so.

I wholeheartedly agree with these amendments, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN).

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Chairman, my first amendment simply declares that none of the funds authorized to be appropriated in this bill can be used to deploy members of the Armed Forces to participate in the ongoing civil war in Yemen.

By passing this amendment, we ensure that no hero, no patriot in a U.S. military uniform will be put in harm’s way in a conflict that can only be settled by the parties involved.

My second amendment simply cuts off funds to any so-called friendly rebels in Iraq or Syria who make a mockery of our good intentions by misusing American arms and resources, and, in far too many instances, using them against us.

My amendment would condition the allocation of certain funds to Pakistan upon a certification from the Secretary of Defense that Pakistan is not using its military or its funds or equipment provided by the United States to repress minority groups, and to make sure that they do not repress these minority groups who are seeking their own political or religious freedom.

At a time of high budgets, we should reserve our aid for friends and allies, and end assistance to Pakistan in particular, which does not meet the standards of decency and freedom that the American people believe have to be part of any decision that we make here.

Pakistan has acted as an adversary not only to the United States, but has been aiding our enemies and repressing its own people. Let us not forget that Pakistan harbored Osama bin Laden. This is the prime mover, the man who organized the slaughter of 3,000 Americans.

We are fools if we continue to support a regime like that in Pakistan today that represses its own people and is using what we give them to actually do things that make us less safe as a people and put us in jeopardy with the terrorists around the world.

Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman for including my amendment to the en bloc package.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Moulton), a member of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman and the ranking member for including this amendment in the en
bloc package, because I remain concerned about the lack of a clear plan or strategy in Syria.

As the Syrian opposition supported by U.S. and coalition forces fight to liberate Raqqa from ISIS control, we are confronted with the complex and critical question of what comes next. Freeing Syrniens from the brutality of ISIS is but one part of a complex, grinding civil war that began with the Assad regime’s heinous violence against civilians and has endured for over 14 years. Over 400,000 Syrians killed, 6 billion Syrians displaced within Syria, and over 4.5 million forced to flee as refugees.

We now have over 500 U.S. troops deployed to Syria to advise and assist Syrian opposition forces. However, we have yet to have a clear, comprehensive political strategy that describes what the end goals are for U.S. involvement and how we hope to achieve those goals.

This amendment requires just that, and follows a similar effort I led with General and Representative J. J. WWACON on Iraq that received bipartisan support in the Armed Services Committee last year.

This amendment requires a comprehensive political and military strategy for U.S. policy in Syria to be submitted by the Departments of Defense and State to Congress and the American people within 90 days of enactment.

We owe it to our troops, those young men and women whom we ask to risk their lives in Syria today, to tell them what their job is, what it entails, what the end goal is, and why it is worth the risks that they take every single day.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chair Senator THORNBERRY for yielding and for his great work leading us on the NDAA.

I would like to address two amendments that are coming up in en bloc packages.

First of all, on Iran, my amendment to the NDAA, No. 361, requires the President, along with various agencies, to provide the House with a report regarding Iran’s use of commercial aircraft for illicit activities. I am doing this with Representative ROSKAM.

Diligent research from think tanks, such as the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the American Enterprise Institute, have demonstrated the need for the intelligence community to provide Congress with a report of their activities.

In total, Iran Air, Mahan Air, Pouya Air, Cham Wings Airlines, and the Iranian Air Force operated at least 404 flights from Iran to Syria since the Iranian nuclear deal was adopted on July 14, 2015.

Now, this report does not block the sale of commercial aircraft to Iran, but asks the intelligence community to take a serious look at these sales so Congress can determine if they should continue.

The other amendment I would like to address, Mr. Chairman, is No. 364 on boost-phase missile defense. Mr. Chair, I thank Chair Senator THORNBERRY for including this amendment, which was co-sponsored by Mr. KING, Mr. HUNT, Mr. FRANKS, and Mr. WILSON from South Carolina, to advance boost-phase missile defense programs.

As you know, ballistic missiles are at their most defenseless when they are in their boost phase, the initial phase of flight. They are at their slowest, and they have not yet deployed decoys and countermeasures that would make it more difficult to shoot them down in later phases of flight.

This amendment will make Americans safer as we move towards advancing this absolutely critical technology.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I have no further speakers on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERY).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. THORNBERY.

Mr. THORNBERY. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to House Resolution 440, I offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc. Amendments en bloc No. 4 consisting of amendment Nos. 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, and 91, printed in House Report 115–217, offered by Mr. THORNBERY of Texas:

AMENDMENT NO. 72 Offered by Mr. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY

Page 386, beginning on line 11, strike subsection (l).

Page 386, after line 11, insert the following:

(g) ANNUAL REPORT ON SUPPORT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES CONDUCTING COUNTER-TELECOMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES.—Effective as of December 23, 2016, and as if included therein as enacted, section 1061(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

(5) Section 1022(c).

Page 396, line 12, strike “(y)” and insert “(g)”.

Page 396, lines 12 through 13, strike “subsections (w) and (x)” and insert “subsections (w), (x), and (y)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 73 Offered by Mr. FITZPATRICK OF PENNSYLVANIA

At the end of title X, add the following new section:

SEC. 10. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON CYBERSECURITY COOPERATION WITH UKRAINE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) There is a strong history of cyber attacks in Ukraine.

(2) The United States supports Ukraine and the European Deterrence Initiative.

(3) THE SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States reaffirms support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine; and

(2) the United States should assist Ukraine in improving its cybersecurity capabilities.

AMENDMENT NO. 74 Offered by Mr. BOWLS OF PENNSYLVANIA

At the end of title X, add the following new section:

SEC. 10. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON CYBERSECURITY COOPERATION WITH UKRAINE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) There is a strong history of cyber attacks in Ukraine.

(2) The United States supports Ukraine and the European Deterrence Initiative.

(3) THE SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States reaffirms support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine; and

(2) the United States should assist Ukraine in improving its cybersecurity capabilities.

AMENDMENT NO. 75 Offered by Mr. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON OF TEXAS

At the end of title P of title X, add the following new section:

SEC. 10. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON CYBERSECURITY COOPERATION WITH UKRAINE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) There is a strong history of cyber attacks in Ukraine.

(2) The United States supports Ukraine and the European Deterrence Initiative.

(3) THE SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States reaffirms support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine; and

(2) the United States should assist Ukraine in improving its cybersecurity capabilities.
Roger B. Chaffee were killed in an electrical fire that broke out inside the Apollo I Command Module on Launch Pad 34 at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

(2) Command Pilot Virgil Grissom was selected by NASA in 1959 as one of the original seven Mercury astronauts. He piloted the Liberty Bell 7 spacecraft on July 21, 1961, and the second and final Mercury suborbital test flight, served as command pilot on the first manned Gemini flight on March 23, 1965, and was mission pilot and Pilot of the first Apollo flight. He began his career in the United States Army Air Corps and was a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force at the time of the accident, and he is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

(3) Senior Pilot Edward H. White II was selected by NASA as a member of the second astronaut team in 1962. He piloted the Gemini-4 mission, a 4-day mission that took place in June 1965, during which he conducted the first extravehicular activity in the United States human spaceflight program. He was named as Command Module Pilot for the first Apollo flight. He began his career as a cadet in United States Military Academy and was a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force at the time of the accident.

(4) Pilot Roger B. Chaffee was selected by NASA for the third group of astronauts in 1963. He was named as the Lunar Module Pilot for the first Apollo flight. He began his career as a ROTC cadet before commissioning as an ensign in the United States Navy, he was a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy at the time of the accident, and he is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

(5) All 3 astronauts were posthumously awarded the Congressional Space Medal of Honor.

(6) As Arlington National Cemetery is where we recognize heroes who have passed in the service of our Nation, it is fitting on the 50th anniversary of the Apollo I accident that we acknowledge those astronauts by building a memorial in their honor.

(b) CONSTRUCTION OF MEMORIAL TO THE CREW OF THE APOLLO I LAUNCH TEST ACCIDENT AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.  
(1) CONSTRUCTION REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Navy shall, in consultation with the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and any other appropriate Federal agencies, construct a memorial at the appropriate place at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia, a memorial marker, or both, in honor of the three members of the crew of the Apollo I crew who died during a launch rehearsal test on January 27, 1967, in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

(2) FUNDING.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated in section 4201 for management support, Space and Missile Center (SMC) civilian workforce (Line 152), as specified in paragraph (1), $50,000 shall be available for the construction required under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. WILSON OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Page 451, after line 6, insert the following:

SEC. 1073. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMIST GROUPS.

(a) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than June 1, 2018, the President shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on a comprehensive, interagency national strategy for countering violent extremist groups.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The comprehensive, interagency national strategy required by paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) Identification and prioritization of the threats, including a description of capability and intent posed to the United States and United States interests, from violent extremist organizations and their ideologies, by region and affiliated group, including any state-sponsors for such groups.

(B) Identification of the interagency tools for countering violent extremist groups, including—

(i) countering violent extremist group messaging and ideological support;

(ii) countering violent extremist group financing; intelligence gathering and cooperation;

(iii) law enforcement activities; sanctions; counterterrorism and counterintelligence activities;

(iv) support to civil-society groups, commercial entities, allies and counter radicalization activities of such groups; and support by the Armed Forces of the United States to combat violent extremist groups.

(C) Use of, coordination with, or liaison to international partners, non-governmental organizations, or commercial entities that support United States policy goals in countering violent extremist ideologies and organizations.

(D) Synchronization processes for these use of these interagency tools against the priority threats, including the roles and responsibilities of the National Counterterrorism Center, the National Counterintelligence Center, as well as the National Security Council in coordinating the interagency tools.

(E) Recommendations for improving coordination between Federal Government agencies, as well as with State, local, international, and non-governmental entities.

(F) Other matters as the President considers appropriate.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than one year after the date of the submission of the strategy required by subsection (a), the President shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of Congress an assessment of the strategy, including—

(1) the status of implementation of the strategy;

(2) progress toward the achievement of benchmarks or implementation of any recommendations; and

(3) any changes to the strategy since such submission.

(c) FORM.—Each report required by this section shall be in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(d) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term "appropriategovernment agencies with jurisdiction over the strategy described in this section, including—

(1) the Committees on Foreign Relations, Armed Services, Appropriations, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Judiciary and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(2) the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, Appropriations, Homeland Security, and the Judiciary and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. THOMAS OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle P of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1073. ADEQUACY OF THE REPORT ON THE VULNERABILITIES OF THE DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE.

(a) COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON VULNERABILITIES OF, AND CONCENTRATION OF PURCHASES IN, THE DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE.

(1) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and at least annually until September 30, 2023, before issuing each report required under this section, the President shall issue to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive report combining all of the elements of the reports described in paragraph (4) and any other relevant reports on the adequacy of, vulnerabilities of, and concentration of purchases in the defense industrial base.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In preparing a report under paragraph (1), the President shall consult with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of National Intelligence, the Director of the National Security Agency, the Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, and such other officials and heads of Federal departments and agencies as the President determines to be appropriate.

(3) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report issued under paragraph (1) shall be in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(b) ASSESSMENT OF REPORTS.—Each report issued under paragraph (1) shall contain all relevant information and analysis from the following reports, as well as such other relevant information as the President determines to be appropriate:

(A) The report described under section 721(m) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565m), relating to concentrations of purchases of the defense industrial base.

(B) The report described under section 723(a) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565a(a)), relating to offsets in defense production.

(C) The report described under section 2504 of title 10, United States Code, relating to annual industrial capabilities.


(K) The report related to "Monitoring and Enforcement of Mitigation Agreements Related to Foreign Investment in the United States" described under House Report 113-102.

(L) The additive manufacturing recommendation described in House Report 113-46.


(b) COMPREHENSIVE DATABASE OF PROPOSED TRANSACTIONS OR PURCHASES IN THE DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE INVOLVING A FOREIGN PERSON.

(1) ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF DATABASE.

(2) GENERAL.—The President shall establish and keep current a database of proposed transactions that would result in all
of a substantial part of, or a controlling interest in, a U.S. corporation, or the U.S. assets of a foreign corporation, being owned or controlled by a foreign person, in the defense industrial base and any manufacturing or intellectual property related to the defense industrial base.

(B) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), the President shall ensure that the information contained in the database is kept confidential.

(C) ACCESS TO DATABASE.—The President shall—

(i) ensure that access to information in the database is strictly controlled;

(ii) make the database available to the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of National Intelligence, and the National Security Agency, with such limitations as the President may determine appropriate;

(iii) require that records are kept each time a person accesses information in the database; and

(iv) require that any person receiving information from the database continues to preserve the confidentiality of the information.

(2) MANDATORY FILING REQUIREMENT.—

(A) In general.—With respect to any proposed transaction described under paragraph (1)(A), the proposed purchaser and proposed seller of the proposed transaction shall file, and keep current, a report with the database containing a description of the proposed transaction;

(B) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PROPOSED TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED CORPORATION.—If, with respect to proposed transaction described in subparagraph (A), any foreign person in a foreign government-controlled corporation, the report required under subparagraph (A) shall also disclose whether such foreign government-controlled corporation is—

(i) a Chinese corporation;

(ii) a Russian corporation;

(iii) an Iranian corporation; or

(iv) a North Korean corporation.

(C) CIVIL PENALTY.—Any person who willfully violates a provision of this paragraph shall be fined not more than $100,000 per violation.

(3) DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE.—The term ‘defense industrial base’ shall have the meaning given the term ‘national technology and industrial base’ within the context of section 2003 of title 10, United States Code.

(4) DEFINITIONS RELATED TO CORPORATIONS.—

(A) CORPORATION.—The term ‘corporation’ means a corporation, partnership, or other organization.

(B) FOREIGN CORPORATION.—The term ‘foreign corporation’ means a corporation organized under the laws of a foreign country.

(C) U.S. CORPORATION.—The term ‘U.S. corporation’ means a corporation organized under the laws of the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 78 OFFERED BY MR. MOUTON OF LOUISIANA

At the end of subtitle P of title X, add the following new section:

SEC. 10101. FEDERAL CHARTER FOR SPIRIT OF AMERICA CORPORATION.

(a) FEDERAL CHARTER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part B of subtitle II of title 36, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 2003 the following new chapter:

“CHAPTER 2005—SPIRIT OF AMERICA

“Sec. 200501. Organization.

200502. Purposes.

200503. Powers.

200504. Duty to maintain tax-exempt status.

200505. Annual report.

* 200501. Organization.

(a) FEDERAL CHARTER.—Spirit of America (in this chapter ‘the corporation’), a nonprofit corporation, is a federally chartered corporation.

(b) EXPIRATION OF CHARTER.—If the corporation does not comply with the provisions of this chapter, the charter granted by this chapter expires.

(c) SUBPARTS CHARTER.—Nothing in the charter granted by this chapter shall be construed as conferring special rights or privileges upon the corporation, or as placing upon the Department of Defense any obligation with respect to the corporation.

* 200502. Purposes.

(1) The purposes of the corporation are as provided in its constitution and bylaws and include the following:

(a) To respond to the needs of local populations abroad in accordance with guidance issued pursuant to this chapter.

(b) To support the safety and success of members of the Armed Forces and diplomats of the United States abroad.

(c) To connect the people of the United States to people of the United States abroad, and to the missions carried out by such personnel abroad.

(d) To enhance the goodwill of the people of the United States to peoples of the United States abroad.

* 200503. Powers.

The corporation may—

(1) adopt and amend a constitution, bylaws, and regulations to carry out the purposes of the corporation;

(2) adopt and alter a corporate seal;

(3) establish and maintain offices to conduct its activities;

(4) enter into contracts; and

(5) acquire, own, hold, transfer, and dispose of real and personal property as necessary and appropriate to carry out the purposes of the corporation;

(6) establish, regulate, and discontinue subordinate State and territorial subdivisions and local chapters or posts;

(7) publish a magazine and other publications (including through the Internet);

(8) sue and be sued; and

(9) do any other act necessary and proper to carry out the purposes of the corporation as provided in its constitution, by-laws, and regulations.

* 200504. Duty to maintain tax-exempt status.

The corporation shall maintain its status as an organization exempt from taxation under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the charter granted under this chapter shall terminate.

* 200505. Annual report.

The corporation shall submit an annual report to Congress on the activities of the corporation during the prior fiscal year. The report shall be submitted at the same time as the report of the audit required by section 10101 of this title. The report may not be printed as a public document.

(1) ACCEPTANCE AND COORDINATION OF ASSISTANCE.—The Department of Defense (including the military departments, the joint staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and the Inspector General, and other entities of the armed forces) may, in the discretion of the Secretary of Defense and in accordance with guidance issued by the Secretary, accept from Spirit of America, a federally-chartered corporation under chapter 2005 of title 36, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)), humanitarian, economic, and other nonlethal assistance provided to local populations abroad for assistance, and coordinate with the corporation in the provision and distribution of such assistance, in carrying out of such purposes.

(2) DISTRIBUTION OF ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL POPULATIONS.—In accordance with guidance issued by the Secretary, members of the Armed Forces abroad may provide to local populations abroad humanitarian, economic, and other nonlethal assistance provided to the Department by the corporation pursuant to this subsection.

(3) SCOPE OF GUIDANCE.—The guidance issued pursuant to this subsection shall ensure that any assistance distributed pursuant to this subsection shall be for purposes of supporting the mission or missions of the Department and the Armed Forces for which such assistance is provided by the corporation.

(4) DO D SUPPORT FOR CORPORATION ACTIVITIES.—In accordance with guidance issued by the Secretary, the Department and the Armed Forces may—

(A) provide transportation, lodging, storage, and other logistical support—

(i) to personnel of the corporation (whether in the United States or abroad);

(ii) to personnel of the United States abroad in accordance with the needs of the corporation; and

(iii) to members of the Armed Forces who are providing such assistance or support;

(B) provide funds to the corporation for the performance of any function, duty, or activity of the Department or the Armed Forces.

(5) FUNDING.—

(A) In general.—The corporation shall carry out the functions of this chapter by private funds in the carrying out of the purposes of the corporation; and

(B) DISTRIBUTION OF CORPORATION ASSISTANCE THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—

(i) To demonstrate the goodwill of the United States abroad.

(ii) To provide privately-funded humanitarian, economic, and other nonlethal assistance funded by private funds in the carrying out of the purposes of the corporation; and

(iii) To provide humanitarian, economic, and other nonlethal assistance funded by others for purposes of the corporation.
(ii) in connection with the acceptance and distribution of assistance provided by the corporation; and

(B) use assets of the Department and the Arm on a case-by-case basis in the provision of support described in subparagraph (A).

AMENDMENT NO. 79 OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY OF VIRGINIA
At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following new section:

SEC. 10. AIR TRANSPORTATION OF CIVILIAN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PERSONNEL TO AND FROM AFGHANISTAN.

(a) POLICY REVIEW.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct a policy review regarding the use of commercial air transportation or alternative forms of air transportation to transport civilian personnel of the Department of Defense to and from Afghanistan.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the completion of the policy review required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the results of such review.

(c) UNITED GUIDELINES.—Not later than 90 days after the completion of the policy review required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall issue updated guidelines, based on the report submitted under subsection (b), regarding the use of commercial air transportation or alternative forms of air transportation to transport civilian personnel of the Department of Defense to and from Afghanistan.

AMENDMENT NO. 80 OFFERED BY MR. DAVIDSON OF OHIO
Page 451, after line 6, insert the following:

SEC. 10. COLLABORATION BETWEEN FAA AND DOT ON UNMANNELED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.

(a) COLLABORATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and the Secretary of Defense are encouraged to collaborate on sense-and-avoid capabilities for unmanned aircraft systems.

(2) IN GENERAL.—The collaboration described in paragraph (1) should include the following:

(A) Sharing information on safely integrating unmanned aircraft systems and manned aircraft in the national airspace system.

(B) Building upon the experience of the Department of Defense, including the Air Force, relating to airborne and ground-based sense-and-avoid capabilities for unmanned aircraft systems.

(c) OTHER GUIDELINES.—The collaboration described in paragraph (1) should include the following:

(A) Development of airborne and ground-based sense-and-avoid capabilities for unmanned aircraft systems; and

(B) Research and development on unmanned aircraft systems, especially with respect to technologies involving human factors, information assurance, and security.

AMENDMENT NO. 86 OFFERED BY MR. GALLEGEO OF ARIZONA
At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following new section:

SEC. 12. REPORT ON USE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN OF COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT AND RELATED SERVICES FOR ILICIT ACTIVITIES.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the President, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Committee on Financial Services, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence a report on use by the Government of Iran of commercial aircraft and related services for illicit activities.

(b) ELEMENTS OF REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include a description of the extent to which—

(1) the Government of Iran is using commercial aircraft, including the House of Representatives a report on use by the Government of Iran of commercial aircraft and related services for illicit activities.

SEC. 1221A. REPORT ON IMPACT OF HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SYRIA ON UNITED STATES SECURITY INTERESTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 1, 2018, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees (as defined in section 1221c) a report that provides an assessment of the impact of the humanitarian crisis in Syria on United States security interests.

(b) CONTENTS.—The assessment under subsection (a) shall include a description of—

(1) the response of the United States to the Syrian humanitarian crisis in Syria caused by attacks on the people of Syria by its government, including attacks on hospitals and other medical and educational facilities; and

(2) how the United States intends to support the needs of refugees and internally displaced populations and to improve access to humanitarian aid for areas where such aid has been blocked.

AMENDMENT NO. 85 OFFERED BY MR. LAMBORN OF COLORADO
At the end of title XI, add the following:

SEC. 1109. BRIEFING ON DIVERSITY IN THE CIVILIAN WORKFORCE ON AIR FORCE INSTALLATIONS.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives a report on efforts to increase diversity in the civilian workforce on Air Force installations, including regional and State demographics regarding diversity.

AMENDMENT NO. 87 OFFERED BY MR. LUJAN GRISHAM OF NEW MEXICO
Page 473, line 15, strike ''and''.

Page 475, after line 15, insert the following:

SEC. 12. REPORT ON USE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN OF COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT AND RELATED SERVICES FOR ILICIT ACTIVITIES.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Committee on Financial Services, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence a report on use by the Government of Iran of commercial aircraft and related services for illicit activities.

(b) ELEMENTS OF REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include a description of the extent to which—

(1) the Government of Iran is using commercial aircraft, including the House of Representatives a report on use by the Government of Iran of commercial aircraft and related services for illicit activities.

The amendment is being offered by Mr. Poe of Texas.
the President shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report—
(1) describing the options available in response to a failure by Russia to achieve the reduction required to the New START Treaty before February 5, 2018; and
(2) including the assessment of the Secretary of Defense whether such a failure would constitute a material breach of the New START Treaty, and funds for the United States to withdraw from the treaty.
(b) OPTIONS DESCRIBED.—The report required under subsection (a) shall specifically describe options to respond to such a failure relating to the following:
(1) Economic sanctions.
(2) Diplomacy.
(3) Additional deployment of ballistic or cruise missile defense capabilities, or other United States capabilities that would offset any potential Russian military advantage from such a failure.
(4) Redeployment of United States nuclear forces beyond the limits required by the New START Treaty, and the associated costs and impacts on United States operations.
(5) Legal countermeasures available under other treaties to which the United States and Russia, including under the Treaty on Open Skies, done at Helsinki March 24, 1992, and entered into force January 1, 2002.

AMENDMENT NO. 89 OFFERED BY MR. ENGEL OF NEW YORK
At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following new section:

SEC. 12. REPORT ON DEFENSE COOPERATION BETWEEN SERBIA AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall submit to the congressional defense committees and the Committees on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the defense and security relationship between Serbia and the Russian Federation.
(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:
(1) A list of Russian weapons systems and other military hardware and technology valued at $100,000 or more that have been provided to Serbia since 2012.
(2) A description of the participation by Serbian armed forces in Russian military training or exercises since 2012.
(3) A list of any defense and security cooperation agreements between Serbia and Russia entered into since 2012.
(4) An assessment of how the countries bordering Serbia assess the risk the Serbian armed forces pose to their national security.
(5) An assessment of intelligence cooperation between Serbia and Russia.
(6) An assessment of defense and security cooperation between Serbia and the United States.
(7) An assessment of how military relations between Serbia and Russia affect United States defense and security cooperation with Serbia and cooperation between Serbia and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.
(c) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

AMENDMENT NO. 90 OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF WASHINGTON
At the end of subtitle G of title XII, add the following new section:

SEC. 12. EXTENDING THE COUNTERDRUG PROGRAM THROUGH 2018.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall submit to the congressional defense committees and the Committees on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report—
(1) describing the options available in response to a failure by Russia to achieve the reduction required to the New START Treaty before February 5, 2018; and
(2) including the assessment of the Secretary of Defense whether such a failure would constitute a material breach of the New START Treaty, and funds for the United States to withdraw from the treaty.
(b) OPTIONS DESCRIBED.—The report required under subsection (a) shall specifically describe options to respond to such a failure relating to the following:
(1) Economic sanctions.
(2) Diplomacy.
(3) Additional deployment of ballistic or cruise missile defense capabilities, or other United States capabilities that would offset any potential Russian military advantage from such a failure.
(4) Redeployment of United States nuclear forces beyond the limits required by the New START Treaty, and the associated costs and impacts on United States operations.
(5) Legal countermeasures available under other treaties to which the United States and Russia, including under the Treaty on Open Skies, done at Helsinki March 24, 1992, and entered into force January 1, 2002.
(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

AMENDMENT NO. 91 OFFERED BY MR. THORNBERRY
At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12. PLAN TO RESPOND IN CASE OF RUSSIAN NONCOMPLIANCE WITH THE NEW START TREATY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report—
(1) describing the options available in response to a failure by Russia to achieve the reduction required to the New START Treaty before February 5, 2018; and
(2) including the assessment of the Secretary of Defense whether such a failure would constitute a material breach of the New START Treaty, and funds for the United States to withdraw from the treaty.
(b) OPTIONS DESCRIBED.—The report required under subsection (a) shall specifically describe options to respond to such a failure relating to the following:
(1) Economic sanctions.
(2) Diplomacy.
(3) Additional deployment of ballistic or cruise missile defense capabilities, or other United States capabilities that would offset any potential Russian military advantage from such a failure.
(4) Redeployment of United States nuclear forces beyond the limits required by the New START Treaty, and the associated costs and impacts on United States operations.
(5) Legal countermeasures available under other treaties to which the United States and Russia, including under the Treaty on Open Skies, done at Helsinki March 24, 1992, and entered into force January 1, 2002.

AMENDMENT NO. 92 OFFERED BY MR. WALKER OF NORTH CAROLINA
At the end of subtitle G of title XII, add the following new section:

SEC. 12. REPORT ON NAVAL PORT OF CALL EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TAIWAN.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than September 1, 2018, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the following:
(1) An assessment of the feasibility and advisability regarding ports of call by the United States Navy at ports on the island of Taiwan.
(2) An assessment of the feasibility and advisability of the United States to receiving ports of call by the Republic of China navy in Hawaii, Guam, and other appropriate locations.
(b) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

AMENDMENT NO. 93 OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF WASHINGTON
At the end of subtitle G of title XII, add the following new section:

SEC. 12. REPORT ON NAVAL PORT OF CALL EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TAIWAN.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than September 1, 2018, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the following:
(1) An assessment of the feasibility and advisability regarding ports of call by the United States Navy at ports on the island of Taiwan.
(2) An assessment of the feasibility and advisability of the United States to receiving ports of call by the Republic of China navy in Hawaii, Guam, and other appropriate locations.
(b) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

AMENDMENT NO. 94 OFFERED BY MS. CHENRY OF WYOMING
At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12. PLAN TO RESPOND IN CASE OF RUSSIAN NONCOMPLIANCE WITH THE NEW START TREATY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report—
(1) describing the options available in response to a failure by Russia to achieve the reduction required to the New START Treaty before February 5, 2018; and
(2) including the assessment of the Secretary of Defense whether such a failure would constitute a material breach of the New START Treaty, and funds for the United States to withdraw from the treaty.
Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Chairman, perfluorinated compounds, namely PFOA and PFOS, have been found in public and private drinking water wells in communities surrounding over 600 military installations nationwide, including my own district, impacting 70,000 Pennsylvanians.

While the military does not dispute its responsibility for the water contamination, the response thus far has been unacceptable. For all of our constituents, they all have the right to safe, clean drinking water, and they deserve to know if PFOA or PFOS have compromised their long-term health.

The bipartisan amendment I have introduced instructs the Secretary of Defense to consult with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to carry out a study on any health effects experienced by those exposed to PFOA and PFOS at military installations or former military installations.

While this study alone will not fix the serious concerns about water contamination, it will provide us with critical information about the health impact these unregulated chemicals may have, and aid the Federal Government in conjunction with State and local agencies to reverse the contamination and protect the health and welfare of our residents.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Poe).

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman THORNBERY for yielding time.

Mr. Chair, Pakistan has been supporting all kinds of terrorist groups for years, these with American blood on their hands. But instead of penalizing Pakistan, the government has been rewarding them with hundreds of millions of dollars in U.S. aid. Some of that money goes to support terrorists.

Previously, we placed conditions on military aid to Pakistan, but these conditions are only focused on Pakistani cracking down on one terrorist group, the Haqqani Network. Meanwhile, Pakistan is aiding and abetting a long list of terrorists in the region, including the Taliban in Afghanistan.

My amendment No. 188 places a new condition on any aid to Pakistan. The condition requires the administration to certify that Pakistan is not providing military, financial, or logistical support to any terrorists operating in Pakistan or Afghanistan.

This amendment makes a long overdue choice: either go after terrorists or lose millions of dollars of American aid.

And that is just the way it is. Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERY. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman THORNBERY for his leadership on this matter.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was formed in the ashes of World War II, bringing decades of considerable peace and prosperity. Still, there are powers today that wish to challenge the order from which millions throughout the world have benefited.

My amendment to the NDAA, amendment No. 98, is a straightforward and simple amendment. It would call on all NATO allies to fulfill their mutual defense commitments, secure national and regional security interests, and achieve those objectives.

The underlying bill takes steps to strengthen our national defense on many fronts. It improves our overseas contingency operations, provides significant resources to rebuild our military, and takes strategic initiatives to deter Russian aggression.

My amendment builds upon those principles. As we begin to rebuild our military capability, it is time for our allies to do the same, especially when it pertains to our NATO alliance.

For far too long, the United States has shared an unequal financial burden in contributing to the global and regional security that NATO provides. With new challenges from an increasing belligerent Russian state, instability across the Middle East and North Africa, and emerging cybersecurity threats, it is time for all allies to honor their commitment and invest in defense spending.

In order for NATO to be completely effective, all NATO members must meet their GDP commitment for defense spending and investment. This is out of fairness—for our effort to evenly share this responsibility and fairness to American taxpayers.

My amendment calls on the President to demand that our NATO allies honor their mutual defense commitment they agreed to by committing 2 percent of their gross domestic product to defense and protecting national and regional security interests. Only 5 of 29 member nations currently honor these commitments. While 24 NATO members fail to meet their NATO commitment, my amendment also recognizes the few NATO allies who actually achieve those objectives.

Full commitment from our NATO allies will make a notable difference in our effort to achieve peace around the globe. We must share equally the necessary burden of peace through strength.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) will control the time of the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH).

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERY. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of Congressman LAMBORN’s amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act to require the President, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of National Intelligence to report to Congress on the use of commercial aircraft by the Government of Iran for illicit activities. I am proud to be the lead Democratic co-sponsor of this bipartisan amendment, along with Reps. LAMBORN, ROSKAM, ZELDIN, and SHERMAN.

As we are all aware, U.S. firms have reached multi-billion-dollar agreements to sell or lease hundreds of aircraft to Iran, supposedly to help bring the country’s fleet into the 21st century. I am deeply concerned, however, that these aircraft will never obtain a use, could instead be used for nefarious purposes, such as transporting fighters to Syria or weapons to Iran’s proxies, Hamas and Hezbollah.

Iran is the world’s leading sponsor of terrorism, with a longstanding record of human rights violations. Its support of radical groups throughout the Middle East poses a threat both to our greatest ally in the region, Israel, and also to U.S. interests. For this reason, we must keep a watchful eye on Iran’s actions, including how it uses dual use exports from the United States.

If Iran is indeed only using American-made commercial aircraft for legitimate purposes, there should be no concern that a report confirming this would have an adverse effect on American trade. If Iran is using aircraft to conduct illicit activities, we must be made aware, and we must hold Iran accountable.

I am also proud to have co-sponsored another amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that will help hold Iran accountable for its actions. This bipartisan amendment, offered by my Nevada colleague, Rep. RHENI KIHUEN, would extend a presidential reporting requirement to ensure that we have an integrated strategy between the Administration and Congress to deter Iran’s nuclear weapons program.

Two years ago today, the United States, China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, the European Union, and Iran agreed to the Joint Comprehensive Plan Of Action (JCPOA), which aimed to ensure that Iran’s nuclear program would be exclusively for peaceful purposes and that Iran would never obtain a nuclear weapon. I was not a Member of Congress when the JCPOA came to the floor for Congressional approval, but had I been, I would have opposed the agreement. However, I have said since before I first came to Congress that now that the JCPOA is the law of the land, the United States and its partners that Iran abide by it completely, and that any cheating or subversion should be dealt with swiftly.

Both the Lamborn and Kihuen Amendments that I have co-sponsored are manifestations of this principle. If Iran is directly violating the JCPOA by developing a nuclear weapons program, the Administration and Congress must be ready to respond. And if Iran is violating
Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I am proud to have introduced the Apollo I Memorial Amendment to H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018. This year is the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo I spacecraft fire that claimed the lives of three American heroes. With this amendment, we remember the three courageous astronauts, who gave their lives in service to our great nation, will be appropriately honored.

On January 27, 1967, Astronauts Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, Edward H. White II, and Roger B. Chaffee were killed in an electrical fire that broke out inside their Apollo I Command Module on Launch Pad 34 at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. The accident led to a detailed internal investigation and congressional hearings. As a result of their sacrifice, NASA made needed changes to the Apollo program which ultimately resulted in the successful Apollo 11 landing on the moon two years later.

My Amendment requires the Secretary of the Army, in consultation with the Administrators of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to construct a memorial marker at Arlington National Cemetery in their honor. This marker corrects an unfortunate omission, namely, that these three fearless astronauts, who were set to be the ones to fly the first Apollo mission into space, have not received a memorial at Arlington as was done for the Space Shuttle Challenger and Columbia crews. As Arlington National Cemetery is where we recognize heroes who have passed in the service of our Nation, it is fitting that on the 50th anniversary of the launchpad accident we acknowledge the sacrifice of the Apollo I Astronauts.

Mr. Chair, it is past time to install a memorial marker at Arlington so that current and future Americans never forget their sacrifice as we continue to reach for the stars.

Before closing, I would like to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who supported the original bill from which this Amendment was drawn, H.R. 703, the Apollo Memorial Act. I would also like to express my deep appreciation to both Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH of Indiana and Mr. POSEY of Florida who both offered to cosponsor this Amendment.

I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will continue to come together to support this amendment honoring these heroes.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY). The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. THORNBERRY OF TEXAS

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to House Resolution 440, I offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc. Amendments en bloc No. 5 consisting of amendment Nos. 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, and 107 printed in House Report 115-217, offered by Mr. THORNBERRY of Texas. AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. ENGLE OF NEW YORK

At the end of subtitle H of title XII, add the following new section:

SEC. 12. NOTICE OF CHANGES TO THE LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS GUIDING THE UNITED STATES’ USE OF MILITARY FORCE AND RELATED NATIONAL SECURITY OPERATIONS.

(a) NOTICE REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which a change is made to any of the legal or policy frameworks described in the report on the legal and policy frameworks guiding the United States’ use of military force and related national security operations prepared by the Director of National Intelligence and published on December 5, 2016, the President shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of such change, including the legal, factual, and policy justification for such change.

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

(1) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;

(2) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(3) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 99 OFFERED BY MR. TED LIU OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle H of title XII, add the following new section:

SEC. 12. REPORT ON MILITARY ACTION OF SAUDI ARABIA AND ITS COALITION PARTNERS IN YEMEN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on military action of Saudi Arabia and its coalitions partners in Yemen.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include a description of the following:

(1) The extent to which the Government of Saudi Arabia and its coalition partners in Yemen are abiding by their “No Strike List and Restricted Target List”;

(2) Roles played by United States military personnel with respect to operations of such coalition partners in Yemen;

(3) Progress made by the Government of Saudi Arabia in improving its targeting capabilities;

(4) Progress made by such coalition partners to implement the recommendations of the Joint Incident Assessment Team and question any by the United States in the implementation of such recommendations;


(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(d) TERMINATION.—This section shall terminate on—

(1) the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, or
(2) the date on which the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State jointly certify to the appropriate congressional committees that the conflict in Yemen has come to a conclusion, whichever occurs earlier.

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

(1) the congressional defense committees; and

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

AMENDMENT NO. 95 OFFERED BY MR. CROWLEY OF NEW YORK

Page 525, line 13, strike the period and insert ‘‘, including respect for human rights.’’.

AMENDMENT NO. 95 OFFERED BY MR. GALLAGHER OF WISCONSIN

At the end of subtitle G of title XII, add the following new section:

SEC. 12. ASSESSMENT ON UNITED STATES DEFENSE IMPLICATIONS OF CHINA’S EXPANDING GLOBAL ACCESS.

(a) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall assess the foreign military and non-military activities of the People’s Republic of China which could affect the regional and global national security and defense interests of the United States.

(2) ASSESSMENT.—The assessment required by paragraph (1) shall evaluate the following:

(A) China’s use of military and non-military means in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region and globally, including tourism, media, influence campaigns, investment projects, infrastructure, and access to foreign ports and military bases, and whether such means could affect United States national security or defense interests, including operational access.

(B) The implications, if any, of such means for the military force posture, access, training, and logistics of both the United States and China.

(C) The United States strategy and policy for mitigating any harmful results resulting from such means.

(D) The resources required to implement such strategy and policy, and the mitigation plan and the specific actions and resources necessary for such implementation.

(E) Measures to bolster the roles of allies, partners, and other countries to implement such strategy and policy.

(F) Any other matters the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of State determines to be appropriate.

(3) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the assessment required under subsection (b).

(B) FORM.—The report required by this paragraph may be submitted unclassified or classified.

AMENDMENT NO. 96 OFFERED BY MR. Yoho OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle G of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12. NORMALIZING THE TRANSFER OF DEFENSE ARTICLES AND DEFENSE SERVICES TO TAIWAN.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that any requests from the Government of Taiwan for defense articles and defense services should receive a case-by-case review by the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, that is consistent with the standard processes and procedures used to normalize the arms sales process with Taiwan.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the Secretary of Defense receives a Letter of Request from Taiwan with respect to the transfer of a defense article or defense service to Taiwan, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(A) the status of such request;

(B) if the transfer of such article or service would require a certification or report to Congress pursuant to any applicable provision of section 36 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776), the status of any Letter of Offer and Acceptance the Secretary of Defense intends to issue with respect to such request; and

(C) an assessment of whether the transfer of such article or service would be consistent with United States obligations under the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96–8; 22 U.S.C. 3901 et seq.).

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall specify the following:

(A) The date the Secretary of Defense received the Letter of Request.

(B) The value of the sale proposed by such Letter of Request.

(C) A description of the defense article or defense service proposed to be transferred.

(D) The view of the Secretary of Defense with respect to such proposed sale and whether such sale would be consistent with defense plans.

(3) FORM.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the date the Secretary of Defense receives a Letter of Request.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) IN GENERAL.—The terms ‘defense article’ and ‘defense service’ have the meanings given such terms in section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794).

(2) LETTER OF REQUEST; LETTER OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE.—The terms ‘Letter of Request’ and ‘Letter of Offer and Acceptance’ have the meanings given such terms for purposes of Chapter 5 of the Security Assistance Management Manual of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 97 OFFERED BY MR. DUNCAN OF SOUTH CAROLINA

At the end of subtitle H of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the security, stability, and prosperity of the Western Hemisphere region are vital to the national interests of the United States;

(2) the United States should maintain a military capability in the Western Hemisphere region that is able to project power; build partner capacity, deter acts of aggression, and respond, if necessary, to regional crises that threaten the national security of the United States by the activities of Iran, China, Russia, North Korea, transnational criminal organizations, or terrorist organizations in the region;

(3) continuing efforts by the Department of Defense to commit additional assets and increase investments to the Western Hemisphere are necessary to further a robust United States commitment to the region;

(4) the Secretary of Defense should—

(A) assess the current United States force posture in the Western Hemisphere to ensure that the United States maintains an appropriate forward presence in the region;

(B) prioritize—

(i) intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance;

(ii) maritime patrol aircraft to support detection and monitoring missions;

(iii) efforts to redraft, degrade transregional and transnational threat networks; and

(iv) when possible, efforts to support the missions of the Department of Homeland Security, as requested, in monitoring individuals identified by the Secretary of Homeland Security as ‘special interest aliens’ or as ‘foreign terrorist fighters’;

(C) enhance regional force readiness through joint training and exercises; and

(5) the United States should continue to engage in the Western Hemisphere by strengthening alliances and partnerships, working with regional institutions, addressing the shared challenges of illicit trafficking of humans, drugs, and other contraband, transnational criminal organizations, and foreign terrorist fighters, and supporting the rule of law and democracy in the region.

AMENDMENT NO. 98 OFFERED BY MR. BISHOP OF NEW YORK

At the end of subtitle H of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT THE ARMS TRADE TREATY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise available after the enactment of this Act for the Department of Defense may be obligated or expended to fund a Secretariat or any
other international organization established to support the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, to sustain domestic prosecutions based on any charge related to the Treaty, or to implement the Treaty until the Senate approves a resolution of ratification for the Treaty and implementing legislation for the Treaty has been enacted into law.

(b) DUTIES.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude the Department of Defense from assisting foreign countries in bringing their laws, regulations, and practices related to export control up to United States standards.

AMENDMENT NO. 102 OFFERED BY MR. ENGLE OF NEW YORK

At the end of subtitle H of title XII, add the following new section:

SEC. 12 . CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION COORDINATOR.

(a) In General.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall designate an employee of the Department of Defense to serve concurrently as the Coordinator for Cultural Heritage Protection in this section referred to as the Coordinator. (b) Duties.—The Coordinator shall have the following duties:

(1) The Coordinator shall be responsible for coordinating existing obligations of the Department of Defense for the protection of cultural heritage, including the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, other foreign countries in bringing their laws, regulations, and practices related to export control up to United States standards.

(2) The Coordinator shall convene a coordinating council of entities within the Department of Defense that have the responsibility or capacity for protecting cultural heritage.

(c) COORDINATING COMMITTEE.—The coordinating committee convened pursuant to subsection (b)(2) shall—

(1) meet not less than annually;

(2) coordinate with the Cultural Heritage Coordinating Committee convened by the Department of State; and

(3) solicit consultation and coordination with other Federal agencies and nongovernmental organizations, including the U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield, as well as other like-minded organizations, as appropriate for the national security interests of the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 103 OFFERED BY MR. FITZPATRICK OF PENNSYLVANIA

At the end of subtitle B of title XVI, add the following new section:

SEC. 1623. REPORT ON SPACE-BASED NUCLEAR DETECTION.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of Energy, and the Secretary of State shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional defense committees a report on space-based nuclear detection.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) A description of the space-based nuclear detection program (including the space-based atmospheric burst reporting system).

(2) An integrated plan, including with respect to current and planned space platforms, to host the relevant payloads for such program.

(3) The current and planned national security requirements for space-based nuclear detection, including—

(A) an attribution of such requirements to specific missions of the departments and agencies of the Federal Government; and

(B) how such requirements compare to past requirements.

(4) How current and future funding for the space-based nuclear detection program is being provided by each such department or agency to ensure that no mission is being curtailed.

(c) FORM.—The report under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

AMENDMENT NO. 104 OFFERED BY MR. FRANKS OF ARIZONA

Page 687, line 13, strike “Tamir interceptors” and all that follows through “System,” on line 7 and insert “for the David’s Sling Weapon System Program, of which not more than $120,000,000 may be used to procure the David’s Sling Weapon System.”.

Page 689, line 11, strike “for the” and all that follows through “Program,” on line 13 and insert “for the Arrow Weapon System, including the Arrow 3 Upper Tier System, of which not more than $120,000,000 may be used to procure the Arrow 3 Upper Tier Interceptor System.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 105 OFFERED BY MR. LAMBORN OF COLORADO

At the end of subtitle F of title XVI, add the following new section:

SEC. 1694. BOOST PHASE BALLISTIC Missile DEFENSE.

(a) Initial Operational Deployment.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that an effective interim kinetic or directed energy boost phase ballistic missile defense capability is available for initial operational deployment not later than December 31, 2030. (b) Plan.—Together with the budget of the President submitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, for fiscal year 2019, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan to achieve the requirement in subsection (a). Such plan shall include—

(1) the budget requirements;

(2) a robust test schedule; and

(3) a plan to develop an enduring boost phase ballistic missile defense capability, including cost and technical tradeoffs.

AMENDMENT NO. 106 OFFERED BY MR. YOUNG OF ALASKA

Add at the end of title XVI the following new subtitle:
SEC. 1099G. MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY REPORT ON INCREASING NUMBER OF GROUND-BASED INTERCEPTORS UP TO 100.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that it is the policy of the United States to improve, with the Defense Agency should submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the status of the integrated layers of missile defense defense tactics, techniques, and procedures; (ii) possible adjustments to ground-based midcourse defense shot-doctrine and re-

-oriented to the increase of up to 100 ground-based interceptors.

(b) AN ANALYSIS OF STRATEGIC, OPERATIONAL, TACTICAL, AND COSTS BENEFITS OF EACH SITE. 

(c) A DESCRIPTION OF ANY ENVIRONMENTAL, LEGAL, OR TACTICAL CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH EACH SITE.

(d) A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED AND COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH EACH SITE.

(e) A SUMMARY OF ANY COMPLETED OR OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS (EIS) ON EACH SITE.

(f) AN OPERATIONAL EVALUATION AND COST ANALYSIS OF THE DEPLOYMENT OF TRANSPORTABLE GROUND-BASED INTERCEPTORS, INCLUDING AN IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL SITES, INCLUDING IN THE EAST COAST AND AT VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, AND AN EXAMINATION OF ANY ENVIRONMENTAL, LEGAL, OR TACTICAL CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH DEPLOYMENTS, INCLUDING TO ANY SITES IDENTIFIED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (A).

(g) A DETERMINATION OF THE APPROPRIATE FLEET MIX OF GROUND-BASED INTERCEPTOR KILL VEHICLES AND BOOSTERS TO MAXIMIZE OVERALL SYSTEM EFFECTIVENESS AND INCREASE ITS CAPABILITY AND CAPABILITY, INCLUDING THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF CONTINUED INCORPORATION OF CAPABILITIES ENHANCED MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM (EMDS) II (CE-2)-Block 1 INTERCEPTORS AFTER THE FIELDING OF THE REDESIGNED KILL VEHICLE.

(h) A DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HOMELAND MIDCOURSE MISSILE DEFENSE SENSOR AND DISCRIMINATION CAPABILITIES AND AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EXPECTED OPERATIONAL BENEFITS OF SUCH IMPROVEMENTS TO HOMELAND MIDCOURSE MISSILE DEFENSE.

(i) THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF SUPPLEMENTING GROUND-BASED MIDCOURSE DEFENSE ELEMENTS WITH OTHER, MORE DISTRIBUTED, ELEMENTS, INCLUDING BOTH AEGIS SHIPS AND AEGIS Ashore installations with STANDARD MISSILE-3 BLOCK IIIA AND OTHER INTERCEPTORS IN HAWAII AND AT OTHER LOCATIONS FOR HOMELAND MISSILE DEFENSE.

(j) THE REPORT REQUIRED BY PARAGRAPH (1) SHALL BE SUBMITTED IN UNCLASSIFIED FORM, BUT MAY INCLUDE A CLASSIFIED ANNEX.

SEC. 1099H. EVALUATION AND EVOLUTION OF TERRITORIAL GROUND-BASED MIDCOURSE DEFENSE SENSORS.

(a) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—(1) UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED OR RECOMMENDED BY THE BMDR, NOT LATER THAN 90 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE ENACTMENT OF THIS ACT, THE DIRECTOR OF THE MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY SHOULD SUBMIT TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES A REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE INTEGRATED LAYERS OF MILITARY DEFENSE.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—(1) UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED OR RECOMMENDED BY THE BMDR, NOT LATER THAN 90 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE ENACTMENT OF THIS ACT, THE DIRECTOR OF THE MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY SHOULD SUBMIT TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES AN IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL SITES AND AN ANALYSIS OF THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF INCREASING THE CAPABILITY OF THE BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM.

(c) REPORT ON FUNDING PROFILE.—The Director of the Missile Defense Agency shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the funding profile necessary for the new testing campaign plan required by subsection (b)(1).

SEC. 1099I. AUTHORIZATION FOR MORE GROUND-BASED MIDCOURSE DEFENSE TEST shot doctrine and technologies.

SEC. 2207. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2016 PROJECT.

In the case of the authorization contained in the table in section 2201 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (division B of Public Law 114–92; 129 Stat. 1150) for construction of an Aegis Ashore Missile Defense Complex at Roosevelt Roads Base, the Secretary of the Navy may construct a 6,180 square meter multipurpose facility, for the purposes of providing additional berthing space, using amounts available for transfer pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2209 of such Act.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 440, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas, Mr. THORNBERRY.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I inform my friend from Washington I have no speakers on this en bloc package, and I reserve the balance of my time.
Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I don’t have any speakers either, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERY. Mr. Chairman, I urge support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERY).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. THORNBERY OF TEXAS

Mr. THORNBERY. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to House Resolution 440, I offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.


Insert after section 2822 the following new section (and redesignate the succeeding provisions accordingly):

SEC. 2823. LAND CONVEYANCE, MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE, IDAHO.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of the Air Force may convey to the City of Mountain Home, Idaho (in this section referred to as the “City”) all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, including improvements, consisting of approximately 4.25 miles of railroad spur located near Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, as further described in subsection (c), for the purposes of economic development.

(b) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) CONSIDERATION REQUIRED.—As consideration for the land conveyed under subsection (a), the City shall pay to the Secretary an amount equal to the fair market value of the land, as determined by an appraisal approved by the Secretary. The City shall provide an amount equal to the fair market value of the land, whether by cash payment, in-kind consideration as described under paragraph (2), or a combination thereof, of any facility or infrastructure under the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

(2) IN-KIND CONSIDERATION.—In-kind consideration provided by the City under paragraph (1) may include the acquisition, construction, improvement, maintenance, repair, or restoration (including environmental restoration), or combination thereof, of any facility or infrastructure under the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

(3) TREATMENT OF CONSIDERATION RECEIVED.—Consideration in the form of cash payment received by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall be deposited in an appropriate fund in the Treasury described in section 572(a)(1) of title 40, United States Code.

(c) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish a final map and legal description of the property to be conveyed under subsection (a), except that the Secretary may correct minor errors in the map and legal description after its initial publication.

(2) PUBLICATION.—The map and legal description under this subsection shall be on file and available for public inspection.

(d) PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Air Force may require the City to cover the costs to be incurred by the Secretary, or to reimburse the Secretary for the costs incurred by the Secretary, in carrying out the conveyance under subsection (a), including survey costs, the costs of environmental remediation, administrative costs relating to the conveyance (other than costs for environmental remediation of the property conveyed). If amounts are collected from the City, the Secretary shall use the amount collected to cover the costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out the conveyance under subsection (a) and shall refund the excess amount to the City.

(2) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—Amounts received under paragraph (1) as reimbursement for costs incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyance under subsection (a) shall be credited to the fund or account that was used to cover the costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out the conveyance, or to an appropriate fund or account currently available to the Secretary for the purposes for which the costs were paid. Amounts so credited shall be merged with amounts in such fund or account and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such fund or account.

(e) RESERVATION OF USE BY SECRETARY.—After the conveyance under subsection (a), the City shall allow the Secretary of the Air Force to use, to the greatest extent of national defense and at no cost to the Secretary, all or a portion of the property conveyed under subsection (a).

(1) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary of the Air Force may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (a) that the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 109 OFFERED BY MR. BISHOP OF UTAH

Insert after section 2825 the following new section (and redesignate the succeeding sections accordingly):

SEC. 2826. REMOVAL OF CERTAIN DEED RESTRICTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY OF FORMER DEFENSE DEPOT OGDEN.

(a) NEGOTIATIONS TO REMOVE RESTRICTIONS AND REVERSIONS.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into negotiations with the City of Ogden, Utah, and Weber County, Utah, on agreements to remove deed restrictions and reversionary provisions on the property of the former Defense Depot Ogden.

(b) CONTENTS OF AGREEMENT.—The agreements entered into pursuant to subsection (a) shall include such terms and conditions as may be agreed to by the Secretary of the Interior and the City of Ogden and Weber County (as the case may be), except that the following shall also apply:

(1) The Secretary may not remove the deed restrictions and reversionary provisions on the property of the former Defense Depot Ogden until there is a ratified agreement between the Secretary and the City of Ogden or Weber County (as the case may be) to encumber other specific properties owned by the City or County with the same appropriate reversionary interests in favor of the United States as are in effect with respect to the property of the former Defense Depot Ogden as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) The properties of the City of Ogden or Weber County (as the case may be) that are subject to deed restrictions and reversionary provisions described in paragraph (1) shall have approximately equal value to the property of the former Defense Depot Ogden for which the deed restrictions and reversionary provisions are removed under the agreement.

(3) The City of Ogden and Weber County shall pay the costs (except any costs for environmental remediation) of removing the deed restrictions and reversionary provisions on the property of the former Defense Depot Ogden to be incurred by the Secretary, or to reimburse the Secretary for such reasonable and customary administrative expenses incurred by the Secretary, to carry out the agreement with respect to the City or County (as the case may be), including survey and appraisal costs. If amounts are collected from the City of Ogden or Weber County in advance of the Secretary incurring the actual costs, and the amount collected exceeds the costs actually incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyance under subsection (a), the Secretary shall refund the excess amount to the City or County.

AMENDMENT NO. 110 OFFERED BY MRS. BUSTOS OF ILLINOIS

Add at the end of subtitle B of title XXVIII the following:

SEC. 28. CERTIFICATION RELATED TO CERTAIN ACQUISITIONS OR LEASES OF REAL PROPERTY.

Section 2662(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: ‘‘; and as well as the certification described in paragraph (5);’’; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

‘‘(5) For purposes of paragraph (2), the certification described in this paragraph with respect to an acquisition or lease of real property is a certification that the Secretary considered—

(A) evaluated the feasibility of using space in property under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense to satisfy the purposes of the acquisition or lease; and

(B) determined that—

(i) space in property under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense is not reasonably available to be used to satisfy the purposes of the acquisition or lease;

(ii) acquiring the property or entering into the lease would be more cost-effective than the use of the Department of Defense property; or

(iii) the use of the Department of Defense property would interfere with the ongoing military mission of the property.’’.”

AMENDMENT NO. 111 OFFERED BY MR. BRAT OF VIRGINIA

At the end of subtitle B of title XXVIII (as redesignated after line 24 of subsection (a)) insert the following:

SEC. 2818. IMPROVED PROCESS FOR DISPOSAL OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SURPLUS REAL PROPERTY LOCATED OVERSEAS.

(a) PETITION TO ACQUIRE SURPLUS PROPERTY.—25687a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection:

‘‘(g) PETITION PROCESS FOR DISPOSAL OF OVERSEAS SURPLUS REAL PROPERTY.—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall establish a process by which a foreign government may request the transfer of surplus real property or improvements under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense in the foreign country

(2) Upon the receipt of a petition under this subsection, the Secretary shall determine within 90 days whether the property or improvement subject to the petition is surplus. If surplus, the Secretary shall seek to enter into an agreement with the foreign government within one year for the disposal of the property.

(3) If real property or an improvement is determined not to be surplus, the Secretary...’’
shall not be obligated to consider another petition involving the same property or improvement for five years beginning on the date on which the initial determination was made.

(b) ADDITIONAL USE OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OVERSEAS MILITARY FACILITY INVESTMENT RECOVERY ACCOUNT.—Section 2687a(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “property disposal agreement,” after “forces agreement”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (A);

(B) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) military readiness programs.”.

SEC. 2863. PERMITTING MACHINE ROOM-LESS ELEVATORS IN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FACILITIES.

SEC. 3124. PLAN FOR VERIFICATION, DETECTION, AND MONITORING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND FISSILE MATERIAL.

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SEC. 3139. PLAN TO FURTHER MINIMIZE THE USE OF HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM ISOTOPE SOURCES.

(a) PLAN.—The Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall develop and assess a plan, including with respect to the benefits, risks, costs, and opportunities of the plan, to—

(1) take additional actions to promote the wider utilization of molybdenum-99 and technetium-99m produced without the use of highly enriched uranium targets, such as, at a minimum, by—

(A) eliminating the availability of highly enriched uranium for Mo-99 by buying back U.S.-origin highly enriched uranium in raw or target form from global Mo-99 suppliers; and

(B) restricting or placing financial penalties on the import of Mo-99 produced with highly enriched uranium targets;

(2) work with global molybdenum suppliers and regulators to reduce the proliferation hazard from reprocessing waste from medical and commercial molybdenum sources outside the United States; and

(3) ensure an adequate supply of molybdenum-99 and technetium-99m at all times, and both plans include any risks to such supply during a transition to production without the use of highly enriched uranium.

(b) SUBMISSION.—The Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretaries of the Departments of Defense, State, Commerce, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing the plan and assessment of the potential closures of the National Bio-Defense Advanced Capabilities Center.

AMENDMENT NO. 115 OFFERED BY MR. CARRAJAL OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle C of title XXXI, add the following new section:

SEC. 1058. REPORT ON THE NATIONAL BIO-DEFENSE ANALYSIS AND COUNTER-MEASURES CENTER.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2017, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate Congressional committees a report, prepared in consultation with the officials listed in subsection (b), on the National Bio-Defense Analysis and Counter-Measures Center (referred to in this section as the “NBACC”) containing the following information:

(1) The functions of the NBACC.

(2) The end users of the NBACC, including those whose assets may be managed by other agencies.

(3) The cost and mission impact for each user identified under paragraph (2) of any potential closure of the NBACC, including an analysis of the functions of the NBACC that cannot be replicated by other departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

(4) In the case of closure of the NBACC, a transition plan for any essential functions currently performed by the NBACC to ensure mission continuity, including the storage of samples needed for ongoing criminal cases.

(b) CONSULTATION.—The officials listed in this subsection are the following:

(1) The Secretary of Homeland Security.

(2) The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(3) The Attorney General.

(4) The Director of National Intelligence.

(5) As determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Directors of other offices that utilize the NBACC.
Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment No. 80 as en bloc No. 4.

My amendment encourages collaboration between the FAA and DOD on unmanned aircraft systems so that the FAA may leverage DOD's capabilities and the strengths of the DOD. These are important activities as the FAA moves forward with incorporating unmanned systems into the national airspace.

The efforts highlighted in my amendment are already ongoing activities between the FAA and the DOD, but more work needs to be done, as documented in a 2014 joint report to Congress.

The Air Force Research Laboratory located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, AFRL, in particular, has expertise in these sense-and-avoid technologies. AFRL is planning to conduct unmanned aircraft research activities at Springfield, Ohio’s, Air National Guard base in Ohio’s Eighth District, upon FAA approval.

I am proud of our airmen and the work conducted at both Springfield and Wright-Patterson and to offer this amendment to help the FAA make good use of the capabilities located there.

I also rise in support of my amendment No. 120 as part of this en bloc package.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. THORNBERY. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. DAVIDSON. My amendment is critical for ensuring Congress reclaims its war-making powers by prohibiting funding for U.S. operations in Yemen that are not in compliance with the 2001 AUMF. I am concerned about any U.S. operations in Yemen that are outside the scope of the current AUMF and have no identifiable authorization from Congress.

My amendment is very simple. If the military operation is within the scope of the 2001 AUMF, it is permissible. If it has not been authorized by Congress, then it is not permissible.

I look forward to working with the chairman and my colleagues in the Senate to ensure this provision is adopted in the final NDAA conference report.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I urge support of this bill. I want to begin by thanking the chairman and all of the members of the committee. As has been noted many times, this is the most bipartisan committee in Congress, and I think, once again, even in difficult circumstances, we have proved that this year. That is, in large part, due to the leadership of Chairman THORNBERY. I thank him for that.

I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON).
of folks in the Pentagon come over and spell out all kinds of nightmare scenarios about every bad thing that could conceivably happen—some of those that I mentioned, and hundreds of others that I haven't. And I understand that. That is their job. Their job is to worry a lot about the preparation for a war that really doesn't matter.

But, past a certain point, that isn't helpful. We need a plan, we need a strategy to confront this, and we need to make choices. That is the one thing that I am still concerned about with this bill. It is really does not make choices. It continues to spend money in a variety of different places, without a recognition of finite resources and choices that need to be made about how to confront the threats that are most dangerous to us—how to spend that money in the best way possible.

That is something that I think we need to work on going forward.

We also have the budget problem that I described. And I won't give the same full speech that I gave before. But I will simplify it and say that there is a consensus in Congress and in the country that we need to balance the budget without raising taxes and without cutting any programs that people might like. That doesn't work. It simply is not possible. It doesn't add up.

That is why we don't have a budget resolution. Any budget resolution that the Republican Congress could put on the floor will fail to meet some of the promises that they, and others, have made. We have got to be honest about that, because this bill, again, is $72 billion over the budget caps. It is actually $91 billion over the budget caps. If you add in—well, sorry, $31 billion over the budget caps, if you add in the money that we took from OCO to put into the base.

So, if we do not raise the budget caps, this goes away and leaves us, once again, in the land of uncertainty for the Department of Defense. We have to make choices on the budget going forward so that we don't leave the Defense Department in the lurch, not knowing how much money that they are going to have. So, we still don't have a budget resolution in front of us.

And, lastly, I do want to point out that the rest of the budget does matter. The chairman and I have had a little bit of an argument about this: we are the Armed Services Committee. You should pay attention to that; you know, don't sacrifice our troops for the sake of domestic—he always says political priorities. That is the one word in his argument that I find not really appropriate.

There is nothing political about it. It is a policy choice. It is basically deciding what domestic priorities are important.

And, make no mistake about it, the discretionary budget that is a zero-sum game. I mentioned yesterday the President's budget: a $54 billion plus-up for defense, and $54 billion cut from nondefense discretionary. So don't tell me that one thing doesn't have anything to do with the other.

But even the so-called budget resolution, the budget agreement that the House Republicans have come up with, but have not yet dared to put to a vote, has a $72 billion plus-up for defense, and $54 billion cut from nondefense discretionary. So, again, the two are absolutely connected.

What are we talking about with domestic spending? I won't go through all of it. I will just mention a couple of things.

Yesterday, I mentioned our infrastructure. Bridges are collapsing all across the country. I saw a big story yesterday about how the Memorial Bridge is about to fall down. We have incredible infrastructure needs that lead to the strength of our country that are connected, just like national defense is to the strength of this Nation.

But another example, the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center—it is close to my district, it is in Seattle—is doing incredible research right now, that figured out how to not use chemotherapy but actually go in, take out the white blood cells that aren't working, reprogram them to work, and send them back in to successfully fight cancer. This has worked for blood cancers. They just started studies on lung cancer. But, basically, we could cure cancer, without going through the hell of chemotherapy. The President's budget would cut Fred Hutchinson's funding by over two-thirds.

I don't think curing cancer is a political agenda. That is a very real need that has an incredible impact on the lives of Americans, just like national security. It is like making sure that North Korea doesn't hit us with a nuclear weapon, making sure that terrorist groups don't attack us. Curing cancer, stopping bridges from collapsing, these are priorities.

Because we are not making budget choices, these are priorities that get pushed aside. And if you plus-up defense and take it from nondefense discretionary, then you are having that very real impact.

Now, I am not going to say it has to be dollar for dollar. I think it probably should be. But we can negotiate around that. But to simply gut the nondefense discretionary budget to plus-up defense does not make this country safer.

We heard yesterday, hey, in a time of war, you make domestic sacrifices. And we all read about World War II, all the domestic sacrifices that were made at that time. I get that.

But you know what else you do in a time of war? Well, you don't cut taxes. You raise them. Prior to 2001, we had never gone to war without raising taxes or issuing war bonds or, basically, asking for more money. But that, of course, we cannot do.

Again, I will say I care enough about the national security of this country, I would raise taxes to pay for it instead of simply adding to the deficit or stopping the ability of somebody like the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center from finding a cure for cancer. That is the choice that I would make. These choices are not being made in this current budget negotiation, and I think that places us at risk.

Lastly, the nondefense discretionary budget is the State Department, it is USAID, it is the Department of Homeland Security. If you are going to have a national security strategy, can't just be the military. And you know who will tell you that more often than anybody? The military. They don't want to bear the entire burden.

General Secretary Mattis had the best quote on this. If you are going to cut diplomacy, if you are going to cut development, you better give me four more divisions because that is how many more wars I am going to have to fight.

So I want to say we are going to add all this money to defense, and defense is so important, and if you are against it because of other priorities, then you just don't care about the troops, is incredibly disingenuous because all of these other things matter to the national security of this country. And all we are getting out of the majority right now is an effort to plus-up defense at the expense of everything else.

I say an effort because they haven't actually voted on it yet. It hasn't actually happened. And it is more likely than not that this bill—good, though, it is—and the great work that has been done on a number of different policy divisions that don't have anything to do with the money, the good work on acquisition reform to try to make sure we get more for the money that we spend, all of that is in jeopardy because this bill has at least $72 billion in it over the budget caps that is, more likely, not going to come October 1 or the end of this year.

So if we don't make the choices on the budget that reflect the priorities of the entire country, that actually reflect the budget numbers, then we are doing a disservice to the men and women who serve our country.

It is a good bill. It is going to be better once we figure out the budget issues and actually start making the choices that are necessary to make us stronger in every aspect of society.

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

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, I fully agree with the gentleman from Washington when he expresses his appreciation to the members of our committee. Each one of the 62 members of our committee has contributed to the bill that is here before us today and, as the Chair knows, we have had more amendments considered over the last 3 days before for a National Defense Authorization bill. So Members of the whole body have contributed in many ways.
I also agree with the gentleman that our staff on both sides of the aisle, led by Jenness Simler and Paul Arcangeli, have done a terrific job in helping to manage this process and to shape and guide what has been historic levels of interest by Members on particular provisions.

Mr. Chairman, I think that you would find among our committee virtually, if not unanimously, agreement on two points. One is we live in an increasingly dangerous world. The second one is we have done deep damage to our military because of the budgets cuts, the continuing resolutions, the erratic nature of funding over the last few years.

Certainly, the members of our committee who go out and actually talk to the people who serve have heard, seen, witnessed firsthand airplanes that can't fly, ships that can't sail, training that has not gone on, movers—we are trying to save money for the military, so we are bringing cut-rate movers, and members of the military are experiencing incredible damage to their household goods as they are shuffled about from place to place involuntarily. Sometimes there are movers with criminal records who can't actually get on the military base they are supposed to be delivering to. I mean, just example after example of how these cuts have affected the men and women who serve.

Secretary Mattis says, the only reason we are doing so well around the world is because they have sucked it up and borne the burden. Deep damage that this bill starts to reverse. I appreciate all the Members who support fixing our planes, getting the people who serve have heard, seen, witnessed firsthand airplanes that are not flying, ships that can't sail, training that is not going on, missiles—use to protect them from terrorist attacks, to support the men and women who are actually performing those missions.

I think this bill advances that cause. A number of Members on both sides of the aisle have contributed to it. I think and hope it deserves the support of most all Members of the House, and I urge support for this en bloc package. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Chair, as we prepare to vote on the final passage of the National Defense Authorization Act I am extremely concerned about the lack of discussion and debate on the issue of Russia.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I have heard from the leaders of our military and there is no question about the threat Russia poses to our national security. It is alarming to me that a number of amendments, which purpose was to gain better situational awareness on various Russian activities, were not debated on the floor this week.

Despite the fact that Russia has continuously attacked and interfered with our country's democratic process, while continuing to threaten the democracy and sovereignty of other states, this body has decided to avoid a robust discussion on the concerning actions of Russia.

Mr. Chair, it is obvious that we have not adequately addressed the threat Russia poses to our nation. Reasonable amendments like mine that would have assessed Russia's disinformation and propaganda activities along with its support for separatist activities were not made in order. Mr. Chair, why would we not want more information on these concerning activities?

My amendment would have also assessed the suppressive democratic conditions in Russia. Is this body no longer concerned about human rights?

I believe it is the responsibility of Congress to fully understand and assess the threats other countries pose on our national security. I have no doubt that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will agree with me that Russia has demonstrated to be a threat to the security of our nation. As such why aren't we doing more to address this threat?

Mr. Chair, this Congress needs to have a discussion on how we can most effectively combat the aggressive actions of Russia, and it is disappointing that we were unable to do this during the consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment to cut waste and strengthen our military installations.

This amendment would require the Department of Defense to ensure that there is not more space available on a military installation before entering into expensive leases or purchasing additional property.

To put this into context, you wouldn't lease space in a parking lot if you already had room in your own garage to park your car.

This amendment is needed because, while asking for another round of base realignments and closures, the Department of Defense leased more than 6,000 buildings in fiscal year 2015 instead of using available space that it already owns.

That sounds like a waste to me. My Congressional district is home to the Rock Island Arsenal, and we're proud to have it as part of our community. It houses the Army's only remaining foundry and employs more than 6,000 hardworking people.

But like many of our military installations, it has room for more. We should be using facilities like the Arsenal to its full potential, especially when it means we can reduce overall costs.

That's why I'm offering this amendment today.

I want to thank my bipartisan cosponsors Congressmen PAUL GOSAR, DAVE LOEBSACK and WALTER JONES for their support of this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORN-BERRY).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 122 OFFERED BY MS. TENNEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 122 printed in House Report 115-217.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

SEC. 890A. ADDITION OF DOMESTICALLY PRODUCED STAINLESS STEEL FLATWARE TO THE BERRY PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2533a(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) Stainless steel flatware."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 2533a(b)(3) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to contracts entered into after the date occurring one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 440, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.
The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Chairman, my constituents are discouraged. They are fed up with political elites who have failed to represent them, and with special interest groups who, too often, put impractical dogma before practical policy.

In the Rust Belt region I represent in upstate New York, the impact of this has been devastating: devastating job loss, economic stagnation, and the massive out-migration of people and jobs, the largest in the Nation.

In my district, Mr. Chairman, decline has bred despair, which has spurred a host of other problems. In light of all this, I was elected to Congress with a strong mission to reverse the tide and to revitalize our upstate communities to the greatness and innovation they once experienced.

I am the voice for my constituents who have been left behind, and I am fighting for a districtally focused path toward individual prosperity and economic revival.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment uniquely achieves both. There is nothing new or groundbreaking about my amendment, which should be straightforward. My amendment would essentially achieve a clear and consistent nationwide domestic sourcing requirement for stainless steel flatware, that was in law for 30 years without issue. My amendment adds stainless steel flatware back into the Berry amendment.

For 30 years, American-made flatware was covered under Berry. However, the provision was removed in 2006 after Oneida Limited, the only Berry-compliant manufacturer, ceased domestic operations.

In the void left by Oneida’s departure came Sherrill Manufacturing, a company in my district that, since 2008, has produced 100 percent American-made flatware. And since 2008, Sherrill has been among the top providers of flatware to the Department of Defense and GSA, fulfilling more than $6.8 million in Federal contracts over an 8-year period.

All these products are being produced in the formerly closed factory using re-furbished Oneida Limited equipment, and also providing jobs for many of the same employees who lost their jobs from Oneida’s closure after decades of service to that same closed factory. In fact, GSA has repeatedly found Sherrill’s product to be offered at fair and reasonable prices, which is why the agency already purchases flatware from Sherrill, independent of any domestic sourcing requirement.

Some domestic sourcing requirements may raise costs. No evidence has been submitted to support the claim that my amendment will do that. This alone should allay any concerns that taxpayers would be on the hook for overly expensive flatware, should my amendment be adopted. But if it isn’t enough, then this is:

My amendment retains all existing waivers under Berry, which means that, if Sherrill’s flatware becomes too expensive or is of poor quality or insufficient quality, the DOD can find other sources.

Ultimately, Mr. Chairman, whenever we can create domestic sourcing opportunities that reduce our military’s dependency on imported goods and strengthen our domestic supply chains without significantly raising procurement costs, we should. And this is what my amendment does. Reinstating the Berry amendment’s domestic sourcing requirement represents a clear continuity in Federal procurement policy, not a stark divergence. As I said, this provision was in effect for 30 years.

Thus far, there is one Berry-compliant manufacturer that happens to be, in my district and there should not be a problem with that, as we hope many more producers return to the United States, where their businesses were founded to provide robust competition.

I also support this amendment for the simple reason that it is good policy. It gives a leg up to a robust domestic supply chain that spans five States while reducing our military’s logistical dependence on imports.

Moreover, for the 30-year history of the Berry amendment, there was only ever one domestic producer. Under the Berry amendment, this is all that is required. And in Sherrill’s case, we know it is a producer that has a track record of offering flatware at market rates.

Mr. Chairman, in districts like mine across the country that have rusted out factories that line the landscapes of far too many of my communities, today we have an opportunity to fix this problem and restore the once great Empire State and our Nation to the manufacturing strength it once enjoyed. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan measure.

Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may allow to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI), my colleague, for some comments.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment, and I want to make one thing perfectly clear. American taxpayers want their tax dollars to go to supporting Americans to work. This amendment means buy American and hire American. So I just want everyone to be clear. We hear a lot about Buy American, Hire American. This is what this amendment would do, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERY. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THORNBERY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I have tremendous respect and admiration for the gentlewoman from New York and her efforts to represent her district, her people, and try to make life better. It kind of relates to some of the conversations Mr. SMITH and I were just having about tax policy, about industrial policy, about regulations, about how we have, in this country, become less competitive internationally than we should.

However, I must oppose this amendment because the bottom line is that it is not a matter of national security where the DOD buys its knives, forks, and spoons.

□ 1030

If Members needed further evidence of the wide range of issues which we deal with in the National Defense Authorization Act, this bill is a key example.

I think the gentlewoman accurately described the history. The Berry amendment was passed in 1940 to make sure that food and textiles were procured from the United States to support our military efforts.

In the 1970s, they put in a specialty metals provision, and attached to that was a comma that said—"including flatware." So then it turned out there wasn’t anybody here at home that made flatware back into international competitive issues, and DOD came to us more than a decade ago and said, "Would you please get rid of that portion of the Berry amendment?" and we did.

Now the question is: Are we going to start adding back specific sorts of items which DOD may buy and say you can only buy it one place, whether or not it is critical to our country’s national security?

Now, the gentlewoman mentioned that GSA is buying some spoons and knives and so forth from this manufacturer, and that is great. If we do, I hope that happens, and I hope more jobs come to her district. But to put it into Federal law that the only place the Department of Defense can buy its knives and forks and spoons is from this one company, I think, starts to get us into micromanagement of industries and takes away from our focus of this bill, which is the best thing for the troops, what is the best thing for them.

So with all my admiration for the gentlewoman, I oppose this amendment. We cannot go down the road of adding category after category after category of items to help our districts and our military efforts and the best use of dollars when it is not a matter of vital national security. I just don’t think that the knives and forks we use qualify as vital national security.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY).

The amendment was rejected.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will
The time for any electronic vote after the time requested for consideration of amendments shall be limited to 2 minutes.

The Clerk will record the vote of any Member not voting.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment as No. 16 offered by Mr. Frank of Arizona.
The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 244, noes 181, not voting 8, as follows:

AYES—244

[Roll No. 375]

Noes—181

The Acting CHAIR. The record vote was ordered. The vote by electronic device was ordered, and there were—ayes 244, noes 181, not voting 8, as follows:

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A record vote has been demanded.

The Acting CHAIR. The record vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 244, noes 181, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 375]
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

☐ 1105

So the result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. HUNTER

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) 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—a yeses 424, noes 190, not voting 9, as follows:

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Ms. PELOSI changed her vote from "aye" to "no".

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 43 OFFERED BY MR. MCOVEMBER

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCOVEMBER) 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.
So the amendment was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Cortzins of Georgia) having assumed the chair, Mr. SIMPSON, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole on the House of the Union, reported that the Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2810) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 440, he reported the bill, as amended by House Resolution 431, back to the House with sundry further amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered to be taken this afternoon. The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECONCILE

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to reconcile at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The motion to reconcile is in order.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. I am opposed in its current form. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The motion to reconsider the bill is an insult to every single member of the Armed Services Committee, to the Rules Committee believe that they are more qualified to judge what should be included in the NDAA than the 61 members of the Armed Services Committee or the 435 Members of this deliberative body as a whole.

Mr. CONYERS changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”
Further, I am not sure why the Rules Committee thought that a discriminatory amendment preventing the Department of Defense from providing medically necessary healthcare services to transgendered military personnel is appropriate for debate than preventing Trump from usurping funds intended for our troops.

You may also hear that my Republican colleagues claim that President Trump can’t use any funds in the NDA for construction of the wall anyway. But that is not true. Under title 10, the Secretary of Defense could transfer funding for that purpose this afternoon if he wanted, all without approval of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, the only way this body can guarantee that Trump cannot use Department of Defense funds to construct the border wall is to put that prohibition in the bill explicitly. The only way we can do that is by passing my motion to recommit to restore Congress. GALLEGO’s bipartisan amendment in the bill and ensure that our troops are not robbed to pay for a border wall.

But I want to be clear: the adoption of this amendment will not prevent passage of the underlying bill. If the amendment is adopted, it will be incorporated into the bill and the bill will immediately be voted upon.

We all have an opportunity to stand united to support our Nation’s service-members and to protect hard-earned taxpayer dollars from the President’s political pipe dream.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support my final amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THORNBERY. Mr. Speaker, this is a procedural motion that, in my view, could be avoided.

We could spend all day and night arguing provisions that prohibit what is not in the bill. There is nothing in this bill that authorizes a border wall. The focus of the bill is the men and women who serve our Nation in the military and the national security of the United States. And that is what I want to talk about.

I would suggest that all of us think back just to the events of the last 10 days. North Korea launched what most observers believe is an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of reaching parts of the United States. And we know they already have nuclear weapons.


Also, this week, the Chinese navy conducted drills in the Mediterranean on their way to conduct joint exercises with the Russians in the Balkans.

This is just a taste of the world we live in, and there are provisions in this bill that address every one of these incidents, from more missile defense to getting more ships in the water faster and cheaper, to supporting our efforts against ISIS, al-Qaeda, and terrorist groups.

But there is another event this week that I hope we all keep in mind. On Monday, July 10, a KC-130 crashed on its way across the country, resulting in the death of 15 marines and one sailor. We do not know what caused this crash, but the early evidence indicates that there was a catastrophic failure when it was cruising at altitude.

It will be fully investigated. But in the meantime, I think we always have to remember that, even on routine training missions, even on routine deployments, the men and women who serve are risking their lives for us. We owe them the best equipment, in the best shape, with the best training that our Nation can provide. Unfortunately, that is not what they have been getting.

This year, our committee has heard testimony that, under the budget caps, the Army is outranged, outgunned, and outdated. More than half the Navy aircraft cannot fly. More than half the planes in the Air Force qualify for an antique license in the State of Virginia. More than half the planes the Navy has can’t fly. Unfortunately, accident rates are going up.

Sometimes I have heard the argument that, well, we are not going to give them any more money until they can pass an audit or they can do this and that or the other thing.

But as everybody rushes out to get on their airplanes, just think about this: What if the board of directors of your airline decided that they are not going to spend any more money repairing planes until there is a bookkeeping problem solved in headquarters?

Yet that is exactly what we have been doing on our military. We have not been giving them the planes and other equipment in good repair.

Every year for 55 straight years, Congresses and Presidents of both parties have passed into law a National Defense Authorization Act. There is a lot of credit to go around, including the Members on both sides of this aisle who have contributed to this product. I am very grateful for what they have done. But what I am really grateful for are the men and women who serve and inspire the men and women who are counting on us.

Mr. Speaker, I would just say, whatever our differences on other issues, which we will have time to debate in another time and place, whatever our differences about what is in or not in this bill, we need to put those differences aside and continue to support the men and women who serve and defend us. Let’s not let them down.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.
Barletta  
Graves (MO)  
Palmer

Barr  
Griffith  
Paulsen

Barton  
Grothman  
Pearce

Berkman  
Guthrie  
Perry

Biggs  
Handel  
Pitts 

Bishop (MI)  
Harper  
Pet (TX)

Bishop (UT)  
Harstine  
Poling

Black  
Hartlizer  
Posey

Blackburn  
Hensarling  
Ratliff

Blum  
Herrera Beutler  
Reed

Bost  
Hice, Jody B.  
Reichert

Brody (TX)  
Housemans (LA)  
Ronacci

Bryan  
Hunt  
Rokita

Budd  
Hard  
Rooney, Francis

Burgess  
Lesa  
Rooney, Thomas

Byrne  
Jenkins (KS)  
S. J.

Calvert  
Jenkins (NV)  
Ros-Lehtinen

Carter (GA)  
Johnson (LA)  
Roskam

Carter (TX)  
Johnson (OH)  
Ross

Chabot  
Johnson, Sam  
Rothus

Cheney  
Jones  
Rowners

Coffman  
Joyce (OH)  
Royce (CA)

Cole  
Katzke  
Russell

Collins (GA)  
Kelly (M)  
Rutherford

Collins (NY)  
Kelly (PA)  
Sanford

Cmmer  
King (IA)  
Schweikert

Comstock  
King (NY)  
Scott, Austin

Conaway  
Kinzinger  
Sensenbrenner

Cook  
Knight  
Sessions

Costello (PA)  
Kustoff (TN)  
Shimkus

Cramer  
LaHood  
Shuster

Crawford  
Lamalfa  
Simpson

Culberson  
Lamborn  
Smith (MO)

Curbello (FL)  
Lance  
Smith (NJ)

Davidson  
Latta  
Smith (NV)

Davis, Rodney  
Lewis (MN)  
Smith (TX)

Denham  
LoBiondo  
Smucker

Dent  
Loeph  
Stefanik

DeSantis  
Loudermilk  
Stewart

DeSaulnier  
LoSieri  
Stevens

Diaz-Balart  
Loebsa  
Taylor

Donovan  
Loebrke  
Tenney

Duffy  
MacArthur  
Thompson (PA)

Duncan (SC)  
McHone  
Thomson

Duncan (TN)  
Marino  
Tiberi

Drum  
Marshall  
Topton

Emmer  
Massie  
Trout

Estes (KS)  
Mast  
Turner

Farenthold  
McCarthy  
Upton

Faxo  
Merritt  
Waldon

Ferguson  
McClintock  
Wagner

Fitzpatrick  
McHenry  
Walton

Fleischmann  
McKinley  
Walden

Flores  
McMorris  
Walker

Fortenberry  
McPeters  
Wallers

Fox  
McSally  
Walters, Mimi

Frank (AZ)  
MacArthur  
Weber (TX)

Frelinghuysen  
Markey  
Webster (NY)

Gaetz  
Messer  
Wenstrup

Gallagher  
Mitchell  
Westerman

Garamendi  
Moe  
Williams

Gianforte  
Moore  
Wilson (SC)

Gibbs  
Mullin  
Wittman

Gohmert  
Mooney (PA)  
Womack

Goodlatte  
Newhouse  
Woodall

Gosar  
Noem  
Yoder

Goodwin  
Norman  
Yoho

Grainger  
Nunes  
Young (AK)

Graves (GA)  
Olson  
Young (IA)

Graves (LA)  
Palacio  
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—8

Bilirakis  
Jones  
Napolitano

Cleaver  
Labrador  
Scalise

Cummings  
Meeeks

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

☐ 1132

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I regretfully missed votes on July 12 through 14, 2017. I regretfully had to attend and preside over the funeral of a good friend and civic leader in Kansas City. Had I been present I would have voted as follows on H.R. 23:

"Yes" on rollcall 351 On Motion to Recommit with Instructions: Gaining Responsibility on Water Act

"No" on rollcall 352 On Passage: Gaining Responsibility on Water Act

"No" on rollcall 353 Motion to Adjourn "No" on rollcall 354 On Ordering the Previous Questions

"No" on rollcall 355 On Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 440

For H.R. 2810 Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

"No" on rollcall 356 Conaway Amendment 2 "No" on rollcall 357 Polis, Lee Amendment 6 "Yes" on rollcall 358 Jayapal/Pocan Amendment 5 "Yes" on rollcall 359 Nadler Amendment 6 "Yes" on rollcall 360 Blumenauer Amendment 8 "Yes" on rollcall 361 Aguilar Amendment 10 "No" on rollcall 362 Rogers (AL) Amendment 88 "Yes" on rollcall 363 Garamendi Amendment 12 "Yes" on rollcall 364 Blumenauer Amendment 13

"Yes" on rollcall 365 McClintock Amendment 14 "Yes" on rollcall 366 Garamendi/Hunter amendment 1 "No" on rollcall 367 Buck amendment 3 "No" on rollcall 368 Buck/Perry amendment 4 "No" on rollcall 369 Hartzler amendment 10 "No" on rollcall 370 Gosar amendment 5 "Yes" on rollcall 371 Rooney, Murphy amendment 6 "No" on rollcall 372 Franks Amendment 13 "No" on rollcall 373 Lamborn Amendment 15 "No" on rollcall 374 Franks, Byrne Amendment 17 "No" on rollcall 375 Hunter, Wilson Amendment 18 "Yes" on rollcall 376 McGovern, Emmer Amendment 43 "Yes" on rollcall 377 Motion to Recommit H.R. 2810 "Yes" on rollcall Final Passage of H.R. 2810

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, because of a funeral of a family member, I was not present on Friday, July 14, for votes during National Defense Authorization Act of 2017. Had I been there I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall Vote 372—"Yea"

Rollcall Vote 373—"Yea"

Rollcall Vote 374—"Yea"

Rollcall Vote 375—"Yea"

Rollcall Vote 376—"Yea"

Rollcall Vote 377—MTR—"Nay"

Rollcall Vote 378—Final Passage—"Yea"
So the bill was passed. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: “A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 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.”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during roll call votes Nos. 356 through No. 378 due to my spouse’s health situation in California. Had I been present, I would have voted “no” on the Conaway Amendment, “yea” on the Polis Amendment, “yea” on the Jayapal Amendment, “yea” on the Nadler Amendment, “yea” on the Blumenauer Amendment, “yea” on the Aguilar Amendment, “no” on the Rogers Amendment, “yea” on the Garamendi-Amendments, “no” on the Blumenauer Amendment No. 13, “no” on the McClintock Amendment, “yea” on the Garamendi Amendment, “no” on the Buck Amendment, “no” on the Perry Amendment, “no” on the Haritzler Amendment, “no” on the Gosar Amendment, “no” on the Rooney Amendment, “no” on the Franks Amendment, “no” on the Lamborn Amendment, “no” on the Byrne Amendment, “no” on the Hunter Amendment, and “yea” on the McGovern Amendment. I would have also voted “yea” on the Motion to Recommit. I would have also voted “no” on final passage of H.R. 2810. I do not have a copy of the McGovern Amendment.

The result of the vote was announced as 378 yeas to 81 nays, with 3 present, and the bill was passed.

Mr. Speaker, if I could take a moment and wish Chairman Thornberry a happy birthday tomorrow. I think passing his bill today was that birthday gift from all.

I will notify Members of any changes to our schedule.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority leader for that information.

Mr. Speaker, I might say that that schedule for the week to come, and I yield to my friend, Majority Leader McCarthy from California.

(Mr. McCarthy asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlema for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the House will meet at noon for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning hour and noon for legislative business. On Thursday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business.

Mr. Speaker, the House will consider a number of suspensions next week, a complete list of which will be announced by close of business today.

In addition, the House will consider three bills that help modernize our energy infrastructure and fully utilize America’s natural resources.

First will be H.R. 2910, the Promoting Interagency Coordination for Review of Natural Gas Pipelines Act, sponsored by Representative BILL FLORES. This bill would ensure better coordination between FERC and other agencies in the permitting of new pipelines, while improving accountability by requiring more public disclosures.

Next would be H.R. 2883, the Promoting Cross-Border Energy Infrastructure Act, sponsored by Representative MARKWAYNE MELLIN. This important bill establishes a uniform and transparent process for constructing electric transmission facilities and cross-border pipelines.

And third, H.R. 806, the Ozone Standards Implementation Act, sponsored by Representative PETER Olson, which streamlines the compliance process and ensures reasonable implementation of the 2015 air quality standards.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, the House will consider H.R. 218, the King Cove Land Exchange Act, sponsored by Representative DON YOUNG. This land exchange will provide the residents of King Cove a safe and reliable transportation route to necessary medical care.

I look forward to passing these critical bills in the House.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, additional legislative items are possible in the House.

Mr. Speaker, if I could take a moment and wish Chairman Thornberry a happy birthday tomorrow, I think passing his bill today was that birthday gift from all.

I will notify Members of any changes to our schedule.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority leader for that information.

Mr. Speaker, I might say that that may be the most expensive birthday anybody ever has gotten, when you mentioned Mr. Thornberry. The chairman has done very well, and I congratulate him on his work and on...
his bipartisan working together with his committee members.

The majority leader and I have talked about this briefly, but, obviously, we now have on the schedule 2 weeks left to go to do our business. There is some discussion in the Senate, as the gentleman knows, about them meeting into August.

Obviously, one of the problems with that is for, particularly, younger Members. There are other Members here who children who go back to school the third week in August, so the first 2 weeks are not available to them.

Can we give them some direction on whether or not we expect to be here past the scheduled adjournment date of July 31?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend.

Mr. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

As of now, I have no scheduled changes to what has been announced. I do want to notify the Members, though, when the Senate sends us a healthcare bill, if we are still in session, we will move to the healthcare bill. If we are out, back in our districts, I would give them a notified time appropriate to come back and begin our work. We would not wait until the recess is over. We would begin work.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments. Members ought to plan accordingly.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, the Appropriations Committee is marking up its bills, but we have not yet adopted a budget and, therefore, have no House-approved top line for discretionary spending.

Can the majority leader give us any view as to whether or not the Budget Committee may be reporting, before we leave for the August break, a budget establishing an upper line for discretionary spending?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend.

Mr. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I have some discussion of information I would take from there. The Budget Committee will be marking up in committee next week. Appropriations, as you know, because you were a member of it, I have never seen appropriations work like they have this year, knowing that we have a new administration, knowing that you get the budget late, but they have every single bill, all 12, out of subcommittee already. As of the end of the day, they will have seven out of committee, and at the end of next week, they will have all 12 done through subcommittee and full committee.

So I knew you would be excited. Those are concerns of yours.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority leader for his observation. I might say, if I can, the first year I was majority leader, which was in 2007, we passed all appropriations bills before the August break to the Senate, but I think that the Appropriations Committee is moving forward, and let’s hope that we can honor regular order.

Does the majority leader expect us to consider each of the bills that the gentleman refers to as having been passed through subcommittee, some through full committee? Do we expect to consider those discretely one at a time on the floor?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend.

Mr. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, no decision has been made yet. Knowing that we are in a different situation with a new administration, there is an opportunity to do it differently but be able to make sure we take up all the bills. I will keep the gentleman notified of when decisions are made.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority leader.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, one of the things, obviously, that I think both sides are concerned about, and Secretary Mnuchin has urged, and others have urged us to deal with, is the debt limit. We are not exactly sure when it will be necessary and when the administration will run out of extraordinary measures to ensure that we pay our bills.

I have told the majority leader privately and I have said publicly to the press that assuming we have a clean debt limit extension, it would be my intention to urge my Members to support such a clean debt limit extension.

Does the gentleman have any thought as to when we might be considering that?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend.

Mr. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding and for the question.

Mr. Speaker, I do agree with the gentleman on the premise that it is responsible fiscal policy and it is important to our country’s ability to succeed, that includes honoring the faith and credit of the United States.

The last information I was given, I believe this is public, is that the debt ceiling will not run out until October. There was conversation that that could have been earlier, but we will continue to work with you and Secretary Mnuchin to make sure we pass an extension.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, lastly, I would say that obviously I know the gentleman and I, and I think the theme of Members of the House on both sides of the aisle, are very concerned that we ensure that sanctions on Iran’s malevolent actions and Russia’s actions, including involving itself in an American election, is an item of concern. I know the gentleman is working on it.

Can the gentleman tell me what he thinks the schedule for that bill might be?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend.

Mr. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments. Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman knows, unfortunately, in the Senate, we had a constitutional challenge on a
serve those who have given so much in the defense of our Nation.

IN TRIBUTE TO KAYE FISSINGER

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Kaye Fissinger, a late resident of Colorado, who passed away at the age of 73.

I only got to know Kaye during her time in Colorado the last 11 years of her life. I got to meet her through her work in founding Our Health, Our Future, Our Longmont that initiated a successful fracking ban for the city of Longmont and dealt with the disposal of fracking waste products in the city of Longmont.

While, unfortunately, that fracking ban was later overturned by the Supreme Court of Colorado, Kaye’s activism should be inspiring for all of us. Her friend, Marisa Dirks, said: ‘‘She was a fierce warrior for democracy and for our environment. . . . ’’

Our mutual friend, Bob Norris, said: ‘‘Kaye was dedicated to many aspects of having a better and safer environment for all.’’

Kaye is somebody who, as a citizen, was able to pull people together and had more effect on keeping people safe than the politicians. Kaye truly helped give voice to the power of the people, and her legacy will live on with all those who were touched and protected by her actions.

BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, WELCOMES THE VIETNAM TRAVELING MEMORIAL WALL

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, welcomes the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall to Penndel Memorial Field.

Fifty years ago, many brave women and men from Bucks and Montgomery Counties were among the tens of thousands who would give their lives in the Vietnam war. The traveling wall is a large-scale replica of the memorial here in Washington, D.C. It moves around the Nation, providing remembrance and healing to local communities like Bucks County, where 136 soldiers were killed or MIA during the Vietnam war.

I am proud of the Penndel-Hulmeville Memorial Day Parade Committee, Ed Preston; Mike Fitzpatrick; Rich Rush; Vince and Lori Muscato; Mike Sodano; Tom Preston; Ray Mongillo; Walt Davidson; Vicki McLaughlin; Paul Shanahan; Paul and Alexandria Schmer; Dale Walton, Jr.; Carol Beauchamp; Greg Woodrow; and all the volunteers and veterans for their relentless effort to bring the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall to Bucks County.

As we honor those who died in service of our Nation, we, too, thank all of those who have served, and we pause to thank and think of those who are defending our country today.

STRENGTHENING DOD’S RESPONSE TO PFOA AND PFOS WATER CONTAMINATION

(Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the House Armed Services Committee for working with me to strengthen the Defense Department’s response to PFOA and PFOS water contamination issues.

These contaminants are plaguing communities due to the use of AFFF firefighting foams across our Nation, including in Horsham and Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, in my district.

I have been fighting for Federal resources and responsibility since first learning of this issue three years ago. With my amendment, and the $30 million increases each for the Air Force and Navy to combat this issue that we fought so hard for, this bill is an important step in the right direction toward addressing this issue any and every way we possibly can, but our fight continues.

My bipartisan legislation, H.R. 3106, would require an enforceable nationwide drinking water standard for PFOS, including PFOA and PFOS, rather than the current voluntary advisory.

I will keep fighting to address this issue with the seriousness it merits.

□ 1200

BENEFITS OF NATIONAL DEFENSE FUNDING

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my support for the National Defense Authorization Act.

The United States of America is the greatest force for freedom, peace, and prosperity. We are the greatest because we have built a military that has the best people, the best trained, and the best led fighting force the world has ever known.

Mr. Speaker, we all have a moral responsibility to every servicemember who puts their life on the line for this country. The responsibility is to give them superior equipment, sound strategy that doesn’t put them in unnecessary danger, and care for their families while they are away. This bill gives our troops a sorely-needed pay raise, and helps to rebuild our military, thus fulfilling our responsibilities.

In the words of George Washington: “To be prepared for war is the most effective means of preserving peace.”

I am proud of this bill, and I am thankful for my amendment to be included in it, that expands veteran opportunities to get credentialed. It allows servicemembers to use the skills they developed in the military to be more competitive in the workforce. It allows them to get credentialed for in-demand professions that are valued by our civilian employers.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of this bill, and I am thankful for all those who worked on it.

SENATE REPUBLICAN HEALTHCARE BILL SHOULD BE TOSSED IN THE TRASH

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, the new version of the Senate Republican healthcare bill should be tossed in the trash. No amendment will fix the massive damage it will cause to California and the entire country.

Women, seniors, and low-income families across the country are being threatened. TrumpCare threatens to shut down hospitals in my district, which would leave many of my constituents without access to critical healthcare services.

People like Doreen from Los Angeles County, will be forced to fight for their life as a woman who was in remission from ovarian cancer in 2010, when she successfully signed up to receive coverage through the Affordable Care Act, even though she had a preexisting condition. Now she is scared for her life as TrumpCare threatens to take away the healthcare she needs to stay cancer free.

I stand up for ‘‘fighters,’’ ‘‘luchadoras’’ like Doreen—a woman, senior, and cancer survivor—who will be left helpless by TrumpCare.

Again, the Senate Republican healthcare bill should be tossed in the trash.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR LUKE KENLEY

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

Mr. BANKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most influential legislators in the history of the Indiana General Assembly, Luke Kenley, who has recently announced his decision to retire after 25 years of service representing District 20 in the Indiana State Senate.

Senator Kenley was an invaluable resource and mentor during my 6 years of service in the State Senate, and I am grateful that I had the opportunity to learn from him.

Senator Kenley has established himself as a champion of physical responsibility and limited government. His accomplishments are too numerous to fully list here, but since 2009, he has led...
the Senate Appropriations Committee, during which time Indiana passed five balanced budgets, cut taxes, invested in priorities, and built a substantial rainy day fund. And Senator Kenley has been the architect of our State’s remarkable fiscal turnaround, and his impact on Hoosiers will be felt for generations to come.

With a national debt approaching $20 trillion, I think it is fair to say we could use a lot more of Luke Kenley’s style of leadership here in our Nation’s Capital. I wish him well as he prepares to step down on September 30, and I thank him for his remarkable service.

FIRST, DO NO HARM
(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, those who support the GOP medical bill have forgotten one of the main and first principles of medicine: DO NO HARM. They said repeatedly that they would protect preexisting conditions. They said that they would protect accessible and affordable healthcare and premiums. But they must have been crossing their fingers when they said it because nothing is further from the truth.

Under their latest bill, premiums will soar, particularly for the elderly. Women would have to, once again, worry about preexisting conditions, such as pregnancy.

The defunding of Planned Parenthood would hurt many women, particularly low-income women. And the cuts to Medicare in the bill would be devastating to millions of women, seniors, children, and the disabled.

In addition, the diminished subsidies could mean that more people than the 22 million in the last bill who were removed from healthcare under the bill will lose their healthcare. Vote “no” on this disastrous bill.

CHINA ABUSES ITS OWN PEOPLE
(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the United States is finally holding China accountable for its longstanding human trafficking abuses.

In the State Department’s 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report, China was downgraded to the worst level: tier 3.

This means that, in the past year, the Chinese have done little to nothing to end human trafficking, which is nothing more than modern-day slavery in this communist nation.

China’s crimes include state-sponsored forced labor, sex trafficking, and trafficking of children, men, and women from other countries. This puts China alongside some of the world’s worst offenders of human rights: Russia, Syria, and Iran.

It illegally detains and tortures its own people, as well as U.S. citizens that are there. It also restricts the fundamental human right to free speech and freedom of religion.

China is allowing labor and sex trafficking to flourish in its borders. Now the entire world knows what has been taking place behind their great wall of brutality: abuse.

And that is just the way it is.

WE CANNOT LET POLITICS GET IN THE WAY OF PATRIOTISM
(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, we cannot allow politics to get in the way of patriotism in this House.

We might disagree about healthcare, or we might disagree about tax reform, but I know that there are patriots in this House who want to stand together against Russian interference in our elections, patriots who will record their votes for country above party.

The Senate unanimously sanctions Russia 98–2. This is not controversial policy. The controversy, Mr. Speaker, is the refusal to let us vote on it. If you call the vote, Russian sanctions would pass; they would pass with an overwhelming bipartisan majority of patriots, those of us who refuse to let anyone stand in the way of defending our Nation.

When this Nation is under attack, we must come together, Mr. Speaker. Let us vote to condemn Russian cyber attacks, let us vote to insulate sanctions from political interference, and let us stand together as patriots to defend the United States.

Mr. Speaker, bring the Russia sanctions bill, the one that passed the Senate last week, the one that passed 98–2, bring it to a vote here, let us pass it, send it to the President’s desk, and see whether he will sign it.

YAKIMA VALLEY’S BEST BEER EXPERIENCE AWARD
(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a region in my district, the Yakima Valley, for being recognized as the winner of the World Food Travel Association’s FoodTrekking Award for Best Beer Experience.

John Cooper, president and CEO of Yakima Valley Tourism, nominated the region for the award, and this is just one example of the efforts John and his group are making to promote the budding beer and hospitality industries of the Yakima Valley.

The FoodTrekking Awards recognize excellent food and beverage tourism experiences all over the world, and it is an honor for Yakima to be selected as
the winner for the Best Beer Experience among the international applicants. Central Washington’s beer industry is thriving and has greatly contributed to the increase in tourism as well as the overall economic development of the area.

As a third-generation hops farmer from the Yakima Valley, I am proud that our fellow growers and our local craft brewers are receiving recognition for their efforts in making our region a unique travel destination.

Please join me in congratulating John, his team, and the entire industry for helping bring such a prestigious award to Washington’s Fourth District.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NEW YORK STATE TROOPER JOEL R. DAVIS

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of New York State Trooper Joel R. Davis.

Trooper Davis was tragically killed in the line of duty on July 9, while responding to a domestic disturbance call in the town of Theresa, in upstate New York. Another victim was also tragically killed in this terrible accident.

Trooper Davis was a father, son, husband, and a friend to many. He was deeply involved in his community, and also served as the commissioner of a local youth league baseball team. Trooper Davis was well-respected by all those who worked with him and beloved by everyone.

As New Yorkers, we stand in solidarity to mourn the life of Trooper Davis, a dedicated public servant and a life that was too soon lost. At this heartbreaking time, we offer our condolences to his family, community, and colleagues alike.

It is at times like these that we come together and pause to extend our gratitude in all law enforcement in our State and across the Nation who risk their lives every day to protect us and to keep us safe.

We are grateful for their dedication, service, and bravery of outstanding members like Trooper Joel Davis, who will rest in peace.

THANKING JANET BOSLEY

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and public service of Janet Bosley. Janet has been a case manager, a grandmother, and I am very happy to call her my friend.

Janet will soon be retiring. She faithfully served the constituents of Arizona’s Fifth Congressional District for the past 5 years, and her steady presence in the district has been invaluable.

My staff and I are going to miss Janet’s infectious smile and her witty stories. She is one of the most engaging people I have known, and my life has been blessed because of her friendship and example.

I wish her the best of luck and happiness as she moves into this new chapter in her life.

Thank you, Janet. May God bless you.

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of discussion as we gather to talk about the role of government and almost everything that we do day to day. I think most Americans, as they go to work and they look at how the government’s role is in their lives, they don’t really have a lot of thought. They want to be left alone.

They are willing to pay some measure of taxes to have things that we all agree on, like schools, roads, bridges, stoplights, national defense, other things. We like the efficient government. We like to see it small. We like to see it without waste.

If there are things that other services can provide without it being done by government, we like choices. We like privatization. We like the private sector.

But there are certain things. Mr. Speaker, that the government does have a role in. This was recognized by perhaps the finest American we ever produced, Abraham Lincoln, when he said: “The legitimate object of government is to do for the people what needs to be done, but which they cannot, by individual effort, do at all, or do so well, for themselves.”

Mr. Speaker, there are three sectors in which the government does have a role; and we as conservatives might want limited government, efficiency, and lack of waste, and our colleagues on the other side of the aisle would want similar things, but they might approach it a different way. We all, as Americans, have a moral obligation to protect the security of the United States of America. We have just seen that with the passage of the National Defense Authorization. But what I would like to address today is a breach in one of our pillars of national security with a proposal with our aerospace.

The three areas that we must safeguard and protect are our national defense, our sovereign intelligence, and our national aerospace.

We are considering now an AIRR Act, H.R. 2997, which would take the Federal Aviation Administration’s reauthorization, which we have to do, and it will pretty much remove Federal control of air traffic controllers and the control of our aerospace and put it into private industry. Many of us, in a bipartisan fashion, have grave concerns with H.R. 2997.

If you look at H.R. 2997, what you will find is that the President has diminished authority. In the 1980s, when air traffic controllers, through their unions, went on strike and they said, “We are not going to play; we are going to picket,” and it put the United States at risk, Ronald Reagan warned them by saying, “If you do that, you are fired.”

They said, “Oh, he is not going to do that. How is he going to control the skies?”

The President, acting on his constitutional responsibilities, fired them. He took control, as he should have, and air traffic controllers, by the thousands, were removed, and others were put in their place.

H.R. 2997 would remove this type of authority that the President of the United States would have. If this bill were to become law, President Reagan could never have been able to do what he did in the 1980s.

It also removes title 31 authority. What is that? Well, title 31 authority is how we, through the appropriations process and through the power of the purse, control and oversee government so that we, the people, and their duly-elected representatives are able to control the aspects and agencies of government; because without this, without this power of the purse and without this powerful oversight tool, you might have bureaucracies become an entity unto themselves.

So title I authority is vital that we have those hearings, controls, measures, and prohibitions so that even if something is decided on, money is not authorized, and, therefore, it gets shut down. Title 31 authority in H.R. 2997 would be removed.

There are also no other oversight provisions that would be put in its place. Why? Because what it is doing is it will take the Federal Aviation Administration’s air traffic control system and it will put it into the hands of a private company.

Now, I am all about privatization in business and choices, and there are a lot of things. But going back to the Lincoln quote, there are certain collective things that we cannot do as individuals and that the government has a role.

We want waste, inability to procure, inability to modernize, or inefficiencies were a condemnation to privatize everything, then why don’t we just privatize national defense? They waste money. They have trouble procuring. They have trouble modernizing. Why don’t we turn over national defense to the private sector?

We would never do such a thing because it would place all of us at risk.
Yet we are going to take the national aerospace control of the skies, and as it stacks up—and there is a lot that goes on up there, as I will illustrate—we are going to put that into the hands of a private company.

That private company would have a board, but it will not have title I authority oversight, and under its current form, the President will have diminished authority only in time of war to take control of the aerospace system.

This is a bad idea.

It also transfers all DOD intelligence agencies, the Department of Defense intelligence agencies, Homeland Security support to this private entity.

Today, the FAA does a lot of things with their air traffic controllers. What do they do? At any given moment, and as many of you flew into Washington, D.C., to come and see your government at work, you flew on an airline. Sometimes there are delays. You get it. There are different things. Other times, you are sitting there, and it is clear as a bell and you are wondering what is the holdup.

Part of the reason, unknown to even the pilots on the tarmac, is that there are more contractors in national security forms. There are national intelligence missions that are being performed and surveillance missions that are being performed. There are homeland security and border security missions that are being performed.

When they take priority, they also take priority for air traffic control and the clearances, and many times things will have to be rerouted to accommodate it. The American public and even the pilots on the planes are none the wiser.

Now, under H.R. 2997, the problem that you will have is that all of this authority will now be coordinated with a private entity. I will explain why this is a problem in a moment.

As a conservative, I am all about privatization where it makes sense, but when it comes to national security, as a combat infantryman, a veteran of three wars, someone who served my country in uniform for 21 years, we must protect this great Republic, and there is a role for the United States Government when it comes to our national security.

When we have stayed from this and tried to keep private parties out of certain sectors, our greatest embarrassments with national intelligence have been when we have contracted to private entities for that collection. Think Edward Snowden. Think leaks in government with classified information getting out.

Where is that occurring? It is occurring with subcontractors and private entities who we were assured when we passed these laws: Oh, they will be under the same agencies, under the same systems, and everything will be fine. Trust us.

And then we in Congress have authorized that. And then what? We sit at our hearings and our committees with our bony fingers and our red faces, saying: Mr. Secretary or Mr. Agency Head, how did you let this happen?

All we have to do is look in the mirror. When we take these controls away on things that we must have a government role in defense, intelligence, and aerospace, we will make the very constant that causes these problems.

Our alliances were shaken. Our country was embarrassed. Our intelligence was placed at risk. Operators in the field were exposed, some even harmed, because contractors let it get out of hand.

Look at national defense. We see some of the same things. Some of the most embarrassing episodes that we have had have been with security contractors in national defense. We were told: Hey, you don’t have time for that; we don’t have the budget for that; we can do this more efficiently; you don’t need to do this. Yet some of the most black-eyed moments have been with contractors.

Well, what about on the administrative side? That would make sense.

I see my colleague, Representative Ted Lieu here. He and I have been very frustrated in seeing some of these types of decisions being made with contracting. The Office of Personnel Management: Hey, let’s take this away from the Department of Defense, and let’s move all of these classified personnel records, and we will have a clearinghouse, and we can contract that. Everything will be good. You don’t have to devote time and treasure to do this.

Yet 25 million exposed records later of those held security clearances—Mr. Lieu and I both receiving a letter in the mail saying that we had been exposed because we held top secret clearances in the military. And yet when we made these decisions, we said this will be really good if we move this to contractors. It will be efficient. It will save us money, and it will be just as good. Well, that was not the case.

So now that takes us to national airspace. What are we talking about here? Tens of thousands of aircraft in the air in flights every single day.

And if it is so broken a system, when was the last time a major, fatal airline crash happened? Can’t remember? You would have to go back a ways, which I will cover in a moment. But let’s stick with these contractors, because the reason H.R. 2997 diminishes the power of the President, takes away title I authority, does not replace it with any other congressional controls. Sure, it has congressional review for fee changes or rulemaking, but nothing else.

It transfers Department of Defense, Intelligence, Homeland Security, Border Security, all of these things, and it places them under a coordination with a private entity. And they assure us, oh, it will be the same system we have now; everything is going to be just fine.

But the problem is that a private entity, unlike today—did you know every air traffic controller in an air traffic control tower takes an oath of office to support and defend the Constitution of the United States? Most people didn’t even know that, to include those that crafted H.R. 2997. They take an oath of office. They have to be a United States citizen. Why? Because it is vital to our national security.

Now we want to change that because it is efficient, and it is a broken, archaic system.

Well, we are all about modernizing. That is common ground we can all agree on. We need to modernize. But we do not need to go the direction that H.R. 2997 has, this AIRR Act.

My issues with the bill are purely on policy.

There are excellent people that have worked this issue for a number of years. They have the right motives and the right reasons for approaching this issue. But when it comes to national security, we also have a constitutional and moral requirement to support and defend our great Republic, and here is some of that that I am very embarrassed.

Let me enumerate a few of them for you.

Air traffic controllers and managers who work in air traffic control facilities across the country are routinely involved in operations that deal directly with the national security of the United States. How so? Well, most Americans, to include Members of Congress, are not even aware of this facet of their work.

For instance, prior to the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom—this is a true story—an FAA supervisor placed a number of flight plans in front of an air traffic controller in Kansas City. Those flight plans were for B-2 Stealth bombers that were about to depart from Whiteman Air Force Base, fly across the Atlantic and drop their bombs in Afghanistan, opening the rounds of our response to 9/11, and then they would come back to Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri.

Now, if you and I were sitting on the tarmac in the Kansas City airport and looking outside, we would say, “Wow, what is the holdup?” totally oblivious.

Yet this is important work. And their mission was obviously classified at that time, but it was FAA U.S. Government air traffic controllers—not private contractors, not private companies—controllers and managers working these aircraft in U.S. airspace many hours prior to the start of the armed conflict.

Every time Air Force One takes off from Joint Base Andrews outside Washington, D.C., carrying very important people, to include the President of the United States, it is an FAA U.S. Government air traffic controller clearing that aircraft for takeoff. Not just clearing it, then it is an FAA U.S. Government air traffic controller and manager who ensure the security of the airspace flown by the world’s most famous symbol of freedom, the shiny
blue and white Boeing 747 used by Air Force One and Two as a secure way to transport our President, our Vice President, other officials, as they are called and closely monitored by the FAA and other air traffic controllers and managers anytime Air Force One or Marine One aircraft are airborne.

These are operations that go unseen. Many of them and the aspects of them are obviously classified and we could never go into here. But they are vital to our security. They should not be put in a single corporation’s hands, where there is no oversight and no control.

The FAA air traffic controllers and managers routinely provide airspace security, sometimes for hours on end, at locations across the country as the FBI or State and local law enforcement perform classified missions using government aircraft. In some cases, not even other aircraft know about these missions or what it is that they are conducting, depending upon the sensitivity as to what that they are doing or is being performed.

U.S. air traffic controllers, government employees, and managers also participate in drug interdiction operations with the Drug Enforcement Administration as well as Customs and Border Protection. This might involve providing intercept vectors due to drug aircraft, drug lords trying to sneak things in or whatever it might be, and that has to alter flight plans and do very complicated things.

It might also involve protecting the airspace for drone operations. Many people are unaware that the FAA U.S. Government-Employed air traffic controllers and managers are also responsible for military flights, not just the kind that I described at our bases and airports, but this includes special-use airspace that maybe has been delegated to the United States in other countries, or to do flight training, refueling, attack, and missile questions. These same government-employed air traffic controllers and managers are responsible for military aircraft on secret missions, to include drones and drone killers.

They are responsible for the aircraft of military uses to communicate with our nuclear infrastructure so that if we have to, God forbid, defend the Republic in that manner, they are right there in that loop of that system, not some private corporation.

They are also responsible for the airspace above the areas where our missile defense capacities occur and the testing systems that go on with that. You can see why handing these coordinations over to a private company might be a little problematic.

And then let’s look at September 11, 2001. It was FAA U.S. Government air traffic controllers and managers who were responsible for putting over 4,000 aircraft on the ground almost immediately, after America was attacked by terrorists using planes as weapons, killing 3,000 of our fellow citizens. But it was the rapidity of response because of the way the network is that they were able to make instant decisions, not having to coordinate through some private corporation, that they were able to do so. And I will speak more about that.

The FAA have to fly over the Capitol and above the White House, the Supreme Court, and all the monuments that you have enjoyed as you have come to Washington, D.C., or as you work here, the symbols of our Republic, are closely watched over by the FAA’s air traffic control- lers and managers who have sworn an oath, unlike people in private companies. They don’t swear oaths. Employe- ees of private corporations do not take oaths, nor do they promise to defend against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

Privatizing the U.S. air traffic control system will not enhance our country’s national security.

Unfortunately, the national security role that air traffic controllers and managers perform every day is not well known, even among Members here. But one could list a number of functions that our government performs where we do have a vested interest, the people, the military, the authority, the government, to the people, to the government because we can’t do this as individuals. The Federal Government does have a role.

So is it about modernization or is it about privatization? We are all in agreement on modernization, but privatization, I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, that a lot of us are like a pack of dogs lapping up antifreeze. It smells good, it might even taste good, but it is not without drastic consequence.

Just this week, we narrowly missed having to vote on this bill in its current form next week. This is why I am bringing these points out, so that we do not make this grave mistake that will breach our national security. Well-meaning people, friends, colleagues, people with just as much passion as I may have, but yet we the people have to take a step back and protect our national security.

There are also, in H.R. 2997, no provi- sions to prohibit in this private corporate foreign nationals working in it. Today, if you are going to be an air traffic controller, you have to be a United States citizen. You have to take an oath of office. Under a private corporation, if they subcontract with for air traffic control, this bill, were it to become law—and it cannot, we must prevent it—what would happen is there are no prohibitions in that law against foreign nationals guiding our skies or taking an oath of office where they are as committed to our Republic, Mr. Speaker, as any of us with the oaths that we have to take.

The national security concerns are paramount. Until we address them, we should not rush in. We want mod- ernization.

I applaud the President of the United States for wanting to bring this issue to the light of the public. We need modernization. We agree with that. In fact, just knowing that we have his support to move towards a modernized plan gives us great comfort because we need that backing from the Executive.

There are a lot of national security issues, and right now, this bill does not do that. Even if it did address all of these, there is still a question that remains: Has the govern- ment demonstrated that it cannot control the skies and that the FAA’s air traffic control system is incapable of keeping us safe?

I can see if it is something that is broken and we have to intervene as government and make sure it is more efficient and we have to do the right thing, but in this case, where is all of this brokenness that we are hearing about? Sure, archaic equipment—been there and done that serving in the mili- tary. As you heard Chairman Thorn- berry say today, half of the Air Force aircraft would qualify for an antique license if they were civilian aircraft and registered in Virginia.

As a soldier, I live by the motto, “I will fight with what I have, and I will win where I fight.” Whether it is with flintlocks, hatchets, modern rifles, or modern technology, poor is the work- man who blames his tools. And our FAA air traffic controllers do a mar- velous job with the systems they have.

That is why almost a decade ago we worked towards the air traffic control system to modernize, and it is on track with procured funding like NASA has because it is expensive stuff and it takes time. You don’t want that sub- ject to funding problems.

The FAA, as a whole, has those fund- ing problems. You have a continuing resolution or a government shutdown like in 2013, wow, that creates ripples. But if it is about modernization of our control towers, it is on track for the pi- lotage we might have.

And I know, Mr. Speaker, you have put yourself at the wheel of planes, and in this case there are a lot of things that we can see where the FAA does a marvelous job. It doesn’t mean that we have to privatize it.

On 9/11, over 4,000 planes were grounded immediately and safely. What a lot of Americans don’t know, Mr. Speaker, is that the FAA’s national operations manager who made that unprecedented call was a government employee, you know, one of those bloated government employees we have got to fire and move out. His name was Ben Sliney. And guess what? That was his first day on the job as the FAA’s national operations manager. Work, what a first day.

But he was good. He had taken an oath to the Republic. He made a gutsy call; 4,000 planes put on the ground, and it helped keep our Republic safer, be- cause the FAA could have been worse.

The FAA has clearly demonstrated through its air traffic control system that it can handle the job. When was the last time we can remember a fatal
accident with a major carrier? 2009, and that was a regional carrier.

But also in 2009 there was something else that happened. On the 15th of January, 1 month before the fatal accident in February in Buffalo, New York, with the regional carrier, which was the last time for a fatal accident, that was US Air Flight 1549, piloted by Captain Chesley Sullenberger and copiloted by Jeff Skiles.

So what we have seen and what we all know is that the heroism of those two pilots that day put the plane down in the Hudson, saving all onboard. And we saw air traffic controllers doing everything with an emergency at one of the busiest airports, providing so many options.

Well, Mr. Sullenberger, like so many of us, has grave concerns with H.R. 2997. This is not a man that has any government interest or privatization this or that or is up here lobbying or doing anything, yet he is somebody America trusts.

You might be interested in some of his comments, and I am quoting Captain Sully here.

He says: "My real issue, and I think for many people, is that we have a wonderful, unique freedom in this country, this unfettered, wonderful aviation system that anyone can participate in safely and efficiently. In most countries, it’s either too restrictive or too expensive for an average person to fly, and the only way you can go is on an airliner or military flight," meaning other nations. "It’s just prohibitively restrictive or expensive to do it any other way. That’s something that we need to protect and preserve, and so why in the world would we give the keys of the kingdom to the largest airlines, to a group of people, stakeholders basically. That is the beauty of our system. It’s a wonderful system. We have through so much of the dirt road in Canada, a wonderful place. I have driven the Alcan twice. I have been through so much of the broken, archaic system that we hear about it. Modernization. That is an area we can all agree on. American aviation would suffer terribly without the benefit of the public structure of the air traffic control system, including its accountability to Congress, and the FAA.

Establishing a private air traffic control company, corporation, board, outside the purview of Congress, with the unilateral power to collect fees without the oversight authority of Congress, with the ability to collect money and distribute service, would threaten our national security—as I have spoken to already—accessibility and affordability of flights, not maybe immediately in the transition, but, as you read H.R. 2997, it goes on to say that they can do a lot of things in a couple of years.

Pilot generation. Look at general aviation in the examples that they use for comparisons. Many of the proponents of this bill say: Look at Canada. Look at Europe.

I love the Canadian people. I have traveled through most of Europe. I even lived in Germany as an exchange student.

Yes, in Germany today, a pilot can go from 5,000 feet Lufthansa or an airliner, and he can glide all the way down to Tempelhof Airport in Berlin. Why? Because he doesn’t have STEVE RUSSELL, Mr. Speaker, out there in his Cessna 140 in the way. Guess what? In the United States, I have as much right to airspace as a U.S. citizen flying as that Lufthansa pilot, who is, by the way, just coming here to deliver passengers, or any other airline pilot.

That is the beauty of our system. What you won’t find is general aviation. You won’t find access. And as Captain Sully correctly stated, it is a wonderful thing. We have access to that. It is one of our hallmark freedoms in the United States.

Now, when he says that we will be handing over the keys to the kingdom, what he means is that it goes to this private corporation, this board, and then they will, for commercial interests, set up—what does that board look like? Well, here it is, right out of the bill.

It will have six of its board members who will be on the commercial side of aviation. Now, I have nothing against commercial aviation. American Airlines, love them, they brought me home from three wars. I will always have those memories.

Regional carriers probably bought many folks listening to this today. But what we have corrected stated. Captain Sully correctly stated. They will be concerned about those issues. That’s fine. They run businesses. They don’t have to protect our national security. They fly.

So what we see with this board is six of them in the commercial side—commercial, regional jets. And then you have got one general aviation, and then one on the business side, which could support general aviation or not. That clearly, as you lay out the board, two that will be appointed by the Secretary of Transportation—kind of his only say in a lot of this process—and then two that will be appointed by the board itself.

So what you will have is a two-thirds loaded board that will favor the commercial interests rather than aviation as a whole. This is why Captain Sullenberger, and so many others, have had grave concerns about what it does to our freedoms for flying. So much of my reason against this bill will have been because of the national security pieces. We could lay all of this other stuff aside. We have to solve these national security pieces in the bill, and right now, they are not there.

With modernization, we can get to some of that, but we have the safest airspace in the world. Where is this broken, archaic system that we hear people saying? Canada, love the Canadians. I have driven the Alcan twice. I have been through so much of the country, driven 1,200, 1,300 miles on a dirt road in Canada, a wonderful place. I have lectured in many of their cities in a former life.

But Canada has the population of Texas, and if you were to look at the number of flights it handles each day, probably less flights than Texas. Yes, they have a modern system. We are having a modern system with NextGen. What we need to do is solve the acquisition pieces, the modernization pieces—not the privatization pieces.

Why? We all know that much of North America’s security is secured by the United States of America. They don’t have to do the same things. That is why they can get away with such a small military. It is not an indictment. It is just the truth.

The bill in question, H.R. 2997, strips oversight authority of our national airspace from the President, the Congress, and gives it to this unelected board of individuals, an action that would threaten the United States’ ability to maintain the integrity of our airspace, as I spoke to earlier, Mr. Speaker, on what goes on at altitudes and in missions that most of us really have no clue.

It puts at risk thousands of missions that our military conducts in just
training and safety in our skies every day. It gives private contractors access to classified data.

Let’s go back to what we were talking about with Edward Snowden with the leaks that we are seeing out of the intelligence agencies these days. Where is that coming from? It is coming from the private contractors. It goes lateral.

Do you think it is going to be any different because we here in Congress say: Oh, no, no, no? Hey, it is going to be great. Mr. Lincoln is going to be—rest assured, and I can already predict what is going to happen, Mr. Speaker. The disasters will strike. We will sit in Oversight and Government Reform with bony fingers and red faces going: How did you let this happen? And all we have to do is look in the mirror, because we are much like dogs lapping up antifreeze, to lick up something that smells good, tastes good, with drastic consequences.

If we want to maintain the safest and finest airspace in the world, we have to prevent the passage of H.R. 2997. Now, this is hard for me to do. Why? Because I don’t like opposing my own party. I don’t like opposing my friends. I have done some terrible things in my life as a solicitor general, I have no conflict of interest. I try to stay as far away from that as I can, and there are two veterans over here giving me thumbs up—combat veterans themselves.

But I took an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and I am not saying if you support this bill you are unconstitutional, or that you don’t love your country, or that you don’t want to protect the Republic. I am not suggesting that at all. I have too many friends who have a counterview to mine. But it is my responsibility to expose what is in this bill and why it is dangerous, and why we can’t do it.

Mr. Speaker, we need to call on the American public and have them contact their Members of Congress and tell them to oppose H.R. 2997, to not let privatization of our air traffic control system happen; to keep it into the role that, like Abraham Lincoln said, sometimes things that we can’t do ourselves, we need to do collectively, and the government has a role in that. Mr. Lincoln obviously knew what he was talking about.

Modernization, we can all agree on that. Let’s work on that. I applaud the President for bringing this issue to the fore. We need to deliver that plane for him.

But breaching national security of our airspace and risking our safety on an unproven system is not a win. Mr. Speaker, it is not something that we need to support. I yield back the balance of my time.

DONALD TRUMP, JR.’S, EMAILS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, on July 11, Donald Trump, Jr., released a series of emails regarding his meeting with a Russian Government lawyer and an individual associated with Russian intelligence.

Donald Trump, Jr.’s, emails are a smoking gun. They prove that the Trump campaign was not only aware of the Russian Government’s efforts to meddle in our election, they were enthusiastic about accepting Russia’s support.

Omit the contents of those emails. They painted a disturbing picture of a campaign, and now an administration willing to break the law and sell out to an adversary of the United States in order to advance their own petty interests.

Our hope is that the American people will carefully consider the content of these messages and what they say about the fitness of Donald Trump and his administration to lead the country.

We will begin. There was a comment posted by Donald Trump, Jr., on Twitter on July 11, 2017. “To everyone, in order to be totally transparent”—which we now know he wasn’t even in. It was about the Trump campaign’s efforts to meddle in our election, and about the meeting.

The willingness of Jared Kushner to attend that meeting proves that he, too, is an unproven system. He, like Mr. Trump, Jr., is not your father. Mr. Trump, Jr., wrote back: “Thanks, Rob, I appreciate that. I have never been approached with information from a foreign government. If I were, my response would not be: ‘I love it.’”

My response would be: “This is completely inappropriate.” My response would be: “Don’t ever contact me again.” My response would be: “I am calling the FBI.”

In this email, Donald Trump, Jr., showed his true colors. This email proves that he lacks basic integrity. The willingness of Jared Kushner to attend that meeting proves that he, too, is no patriot.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, after we finish reading these emails in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, we are going to discuss why it is a straight-up violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

On Monday, June 6, 2016, Rob Goldstone writes back to Donald Trump, Jr., in an email at 12:49 p.m., with a subject heading: “Russia—Clinton—private and confidential.”

End of email.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Will the gentleman from Arizona yield?

Mr. GALLEGO. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I am going to be reading the email portions of Rob Goldstone to Donald Trump, Jr. On June 3, 2016, at 10:36 a.m., Rob Goldstone wrote to Donald Trump, Jr., the following: “Good morning.”

“Emin just called and asked me to talk with Emin by phone about this matter.”

“If you are interested we can hopefully speak to Emin later and talk about this matter.”

“I thought it was Political Opposition Research. I first wanted to just have a phone call but when that didn’t work out, they said the woman would be in New York and asked if I would meet. I decided to take the meeting. The woman, as she has said publicly, was not a government official. And, as we have said, no senior顾问 said we should provide and wanted to talk about adoption policy and the Magnitsky Act. To put this in context, this occurred before the current Russian fever was in vogue. As Rob Goldstone said just today in the press, the entire meeting was ‘the most insane nonsense I ever heard. And I was actually agitated by it.’”

End of email.

Mr. TRUMP, JR., writes back.

“Hi, Don.

‘Let me know when you are free to talk with Emin by phone about this Hillary info—you had mentioned early this week so wanted to try to schedule a time and day.

‘Best to you and family.

‘Rob Goldstone.’

On June 6, 2016, at 3:39 p.m., Donald Trump, Jr., wrote back: “Rob, could we speak now?”

Then Rob Goldstone replies to Donald Trump, Jr., that same day at 3:37 p.m.: “Let me track him down in Moscow.

‘What number could call?’”
By the way, any email where someone says tracking someone down in Moscow might just raise some red flags.

Mr. GALLEGEO. On June 6, 2016, at 3:38 p.m., Donald Trump, Jr., wrote back:

"My cell"—we have omitted that cell number. Unlike Donald Trump, we do not give out individual cell numbers.

"Thanks.

D." 

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Then Rob Goldstone replies: "Okay. He is on stage in Moscow but should be off within 20 minutes so I am sure can call.

"Rob.

Mr. GALLEGEO. On June 6, 2016, just a few minutes after receiving this email, Donald Trump, Jr., wrote back:

"Rob, thanks for the help." 

From Moscow thanks for the help, he should have said.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. The next day, on June 7, 2016, at 4:20 p.m., Rob Goldstone writes:

"Don.

"Hope all is well.

"Emin asked that I schedule a meeting with you and the Russian Government attorney who is flying over from Moscow for this Thursday.

"I believe you are aware of the meeting—and so wondered if 3 p.m. or later on Thursday works for you?

"I assume it would be at your office.

"Best.

"Rob Goldstone." 

Mr. GALLEGEO. On June 7, 2016, at 5:16 p.m., Donald Trump, Jr., writes:

"Hello, how is it at my office? Thanks, Rob, appreciate you helping set it up!

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Later that same day, on June 7, 2016, Rob Goldstone wrote back to Donald Trump, Jr.:

"I submit don’t sit in on the meeting, but will bring them at 3 p.m. and introduce you, et cetera?

"I will send the names of the two people meeting with you for security when I have them later today.

"Best.

"Rob.

By the way, we now know today that one of those names just happens to be a Soviet counterintelligence officer.

Mr. GALLEGEO. On June 7, 2016, at 6:14 p.m., Donald Trump, Jr., writes:

"Great. It will likely be Paul Manafort and Jared Kushner. That is a third act. That more than completes a crime conspiracy. We have in black and white right here a violation of Federal law.

Mr. GALLEGEO. The other thing that we have to consider is this: right now, there is a person who is in the White House who has lied on their security clearance—a security clearance that we use to determine whether we shall trust somebody with this top secret information for this country. Jared Kushner was in a meeting with a foreign agent. Now we know there is a former Soviet counterintelligence officer that he met with. Now we know that he was a meeting not just with a foreign agent but a former Soviet counterintelligence officer. Let me tell you something. There is no such thing as former counterintelligence officers if you ever work with the Soviets. Once you are in the KGB, you are always in the KGB.

Why was that person in that room? It was not to talk about adoption. He certainly wasn’t there to talk about anything else. But, if anything, he was there to get information. The fact that Jared Kushner lied in his clearance, lied and omitted it until finally revealed today, really calls into question whether that man should be in the White House right now and trusted with this type of sensitive information.

Tedy, you and I were in the military. We both had security clearances. If we had this type of omission in our security clearance, what would have been our punishments?

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Our security clearances would have been suspended immediately. An investigation would have been opened.

I am glad you mentioned Jared Kushner because many of us are wondering, why does he still have a security clearance? Why is he even in the White House?

Let’s just sort of walk through a little bit of what happened with his security clearance. On the very first security clearance form, known as an SF-86 form, he lied on it. He did not disclose a single meeting with the Russians.

If you read that form, it says: if you make a false statement or omit material facts, you can be imprisoned.

He omitted all that information. He is then confronted, and what does he do? He revises it. So then he submits a security clearance form.

Now, it turns out he lied on that one too, because he did not disclose this latest meeting that happened to be with a Russian counterintelligence officer. So then he had to submit a third form. When you look at his explanation, according to media reports, he said that his staff hit the send button too soon.

Well, both Representative GALLEGEO and I know that that is not how you submit the security clearance form. It is a pretty involved, elaborate process. You have to do this certification. Not only do you have to send it electronically, then you have to sign the paper and submit it with your signature on it—very elaborate.

So now he is lying about the process in which he lied on the three security clearance forms. We don’t know why he has a security clearance. We don’t know why he is even in the White House.

Mr. GALLEGEO. What is the motivation for omitting this meeting? There are clearly emails, there are clearly pointed emails, saying: Why are you going to be attending this meeting?

There is a subject line that says, Clinton emails. There is a subject line that has to do with a Russian agent, a crown prosecutor. Now we know there is a former Soviet counterintelligence agent who just happens to be there, and Jared Kushner omits it from his security clearance. That is not an accident.

That is a criminal act, a criminal act that any other citizen in this country, any other soldier, sailor, marine, airman, if we ever did that, we would be quickly prosecuted under the UCMJ.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Would the gentleman yield for a question?

Mr. GALLEGEO. No.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Would the other gentleman yield for a question?

Mr. GALLEGEO. I am controlling time.
Mr. TED LIEU of California. So let me follow up what Representative GALLEGO said. We have a person in the White House now with a security clearance even though he has lied on at least two of those forms. So there actually needs to be an investigation. That security clearance needs to be suspended immediately.

But, also, for any intelligence official watching this or reading about this, how can you trust Jared Kushner when he lied on those security clearance forms and makes a mockery of the process?

Keep in mind this is the same person who suggested setting up a secret back channel with the Russians at the Russian Embassy. So the only reason you would want to use Russian equipment at the Russian Embassy is to hide information from U.S. intelligence. So even if his security clearance is not suspended, I really hope that people working for him do not trust him.

Mr. GALLEGO. If you start seeing and putting it all together, we now know that there is a clear narrative of Jared Kushner’s involvements with the Russians.

First, he tries to set up a back channel. Then he omits his conversations and meetings in a security clearance. He continues to lie even though he is continuously brought forth as being untruthful. Now we find ourselves in the situation where there is basically zero trust that this man in the White House with top secret clearance is not compromised.

In conclusion, let me close with this. You just heard emails after emails. Imagine this conversation happening with a Democrat or the opposite way. Imagine this conversation happening with a Democrat or the opposite way. Imagine this conversation happening where someone said they had some information that would help, yes, the campaign, but the reason it would help the campaign is there was supposedly information that showed that Hillary Clinton was involved in some activity that was contrary to the interests of the United States or contrary to the law.

Yes, if someone says to you that they want to give you information, there is nothing wrong with it. I would hope that my colleagues who just said what is happening on our side of the aisle is naked partisanship, I wonder if the Democratic Party and my other colleagues in this body are calling for Hillary to release all of her emails and to make sure that we have under oath an explanation of these transactions to the Clinton Foundation. Instead, we are hearing all sorts of sinister descriptions of a meeting that was going to give information.

I will tell you right now, everybody in this body, if they think that there could be information that is important for our country to know from any foreigner, we should talk to them and find out what it is. It is not illegal to receive information from someone, especially if you are engaged in an activity that is aimed at trying to secure understanding for policies that you plan to implement as President of the United States as an elected leader. There absolutely is nothing wrong.

By the way, I am the chairman of the Europe, Eurasia and Emerging Threats Subcommittee. Russia is in my jurisdiction. Should I ever turn down a chance to talk to somebody who has information for me, negative or positive, about Russia? No, I shouldn’t. And neither should the Trump campaign have ignored any opportunity to receive more information about what was being done by Hillary, perhaps, and the raising of the millions of dollars for the foundation.

So that was a legitimate thing to ask. Then you determine: Is the information accurate or is it not accurate? If it is not accurate, you don’t want to touch it.

But many people were disturbed that there had been a release of emails during the campaign, and a lot of the questions by this Russia issue is whether Russia or somebody else actually hacked into the system and released those emails.
I think what is important is only whether truth was revealed. If someone was talking about releasing negative and false information, the public should be upset about that. But they should not be upset if they are being given a chance to see more information that is accurate information on this issue.

I would hope and trust that the American people are smart enough to see a diversionary tactic using sinister words over and over again to describe something that is perfectly legal. In some cases, as I say, talking to anybody to get more information to help you make your decisions is a good thing and not a bad thing.

Mr. Speaker. I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOMERT).

Mr. GOMERT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate so much my very good friend from California, with whom I have traveled abroad and had some amazing meetings with representatives of countries worldwide.

As I listened to our friends on the other side talk about this issue, it appears very clear what they are saying is that every Member of the House who has ever met with someone from a foreign country and asked questions, whether they believe what they were given or not, is guilty of a crime and should be damned to hell for all eternity.

Basically, is that my friend’s impression?

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that that is what is being said: because those people are so sinister, you don’t listen to them; or, the whole act is sinister, it may be legal.

In reality, we are talking about one person meeting with another who may have information. We in Congress and anyone running for public office should be listening and seeing if there is information that is imparted that is important to know.

Mr. GOMERT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the fact that the gentleman from California and I have met with the then-leader of Iraq. Neither the gentleman from California nor I cared for the man. He was the Prime Minister of Iraq. He did a great deal of damage to Iraq. He, along with President Obama, dramatically weakened Iraq.

I know my friend recalls our conversation with Prime Minister Maliki. We were asked questions that we considered very serious.

For example, I was asking about his commitment to protect the refugees from Iran that he had pledged to protect. My friend from California was asking about the Iraqi pledge to help pay us back for some of our costs in making Iraq free.

Those two issues so infuriated Prime Minister Maliki that we got word later when we were on the C-130 that we were being banned from Iraq by the Prime Minister.

But to hear our friends across the aisle talk, every time one of them and every time one of us on this side of the aisle have asked even people we consider to be despicable and have done terrible things and we wanted answers, we were committing a crime in demanding those answers.

I also know my friend from California got similar treatment from an official who believed was corrupt as the leader of Afghanistan at the time.

I don’t find any crime or any harm in asking questions and getting answers, even from people for whom we have no respect. I think it is a good thing. If anybody has got information, even if you don’t care for them, try to get the answers to those questions.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, well, we know now people are trying to frighten us and others not to meet with people and not to talk to people. I wonder why.

As far as I am concerned, I don’t have just a blind trust in whatever our intelligence agencies give us. Let me note that many of the statements being quoted aren’t even being quoted from our intelligence agencies during this whole national discussion on what Russia’s interaction with us has been for the last couple of years.

The fact is that our intelligence reports are filled with weasel words. A weasel word is making it sound like you are saying something, but you put a phrase in that actually doesn’t commit you to defending that particular position as being truthful.

With that said, I would hope that the American people pay close attention to the sinister words, but also the weasel words, and pay attention to the basic nonsense in telling us that: Oh, a horrible crime has been committed now, because someone in the Trump campaign—whatever it was; I don’t care if it was Donald Trump’s relatives or his son or whoever it was, anybody in the campaign whatsoever—wants to talk to anybody in the world to get information, rationally and rational.

Whether or not at that point it has to be determined whether it is accurate information, to move forward with accurate information is wrong, but your job, too, is to verify what somebody is telling you before you let it influence your policymaking or the decisions that you are making at that moment.

With that said, I would like to change the subject at this point, because I had another issue that I really would like to talk about today.

**BITCOIN**

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, I am the chairman, as I mentioned, of the Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats. I am a senior member also of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. I am here, basically, to discuss emerging technology that is unleashing a new economic dynamic, but it could also be negatively impacting on our national security.

I have long considered myself a proponent of free markets and government controls. I have trusted free people and free markets with optimism that technology and innovation would deal with the perplexing challenges to our security and our prosperity.

In recent years, one of the more exciting innovations helping reshape the way we live is the introduction of digital currency here and globally.

Due to this emerging technology, times are changing right before our eyes. Americans have new ways of fighting inflation and handling their personal business obligations. People with bitcoins living under despotic regimes throughout the world now have the opportunity to protect their assets from abusive and corrupt government.

Indeed, the security of the blockchain technology will enable a new wave of societal advances that should invigorate our markets and improve lives.

However, with all that potential benefit of digital currency, there is also danger. It empowers the good people of the world, but it also can be used by those who have goals that are malevolent and evil.

Islamic terrorism is now a horrendous threat that hangs over all the free people in the world, in the United States, and elsewhere. Law enforcement throughout the world is now aware that bitcoin is available for use by terrorist organizations in accomplishing their gruesome missions.

**What makes it a good deal for terrorists?**

It is anonymous. They can transfer funds using a digital currency platform from anywhere to any of the usual safeguards that thwart terrorists and criminal activity.

Anti-money laundering and know-your-customer standards have worked to deal with criminals in recent decades, but now that approach can be technologically undermined by the use of the bitcoin instead of traditional currency.

Since digital currencies such as the bitcoin offer a free ability to transfer funds, it takes some of the safeguards that thwart criminals and terrorist activity.

Anti-money laundering and know-your-customer standards have worked to deal with criminals in recent decades, but now that approach can be technologically undermined by the use of digital currencies.

Instead of banning all the digital currencies because some lack standards, I believe we should encourage digital currencies to implement full anti-money laundering and know-your-customer standards.

These protections should empower both our law enforcement and national security professionals to keep terrorist and criminal financing under control worldwide while preserving for the rest of us the freedom to use digital currencies.

Thus, with the proper type of regulatory look and seeing what options are available to us, we can prevent terrorists and criminals under control from financing their operations with bitcoins, but the rest of us will still be free to use these new digital currencies and enable America to keep the lead in
the world in this enthusiastic technological advance.

In light of my chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats, and my experience in the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to encourage economic innovation brought by the bitcoins, but also to see to it that digital currencies will have strong standards that will thwart the exploitation of this new economic function by terrorists and criminals and other evil forces in the world.

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So I look forward to working with my colleagues. I think this is a bipartisan issue. I won’t try to make it sound sinister at all, because this is something we can work on, and we must keep America in the forefront of technological development.

We know with each step forward in technology, there is a potential harm that can be done, but we need to make sure that is taken into consideration, while at the same time that we do not thwart Americans from using the ultimate technologies of the day to secure prosperity and secure freedom and to secure our national security with these new technologies.

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

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Taylor). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Gohmert) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate very much my friend from California, Dana Rohrabacher, making the point that he did.

There is nothing either sinister, wrong, criminal, improper when someone is engaged in an election or when someone is engaged in an election, if offered information that may be helpful, whatever the source. Unless it is a known criminal that is going to advise someone about some potential crime, there is normally nothing wrong with seeking or even getting that information.

I doubt there is anybody on this House floor, when offered information from a source about an opponent in a campaign, didn’t at least take some action to see if there was anything legitimate to it.

So it is just amazing, when we know that there is certainly probable cause to believe crimes have been committed during the Obama administration, yet we got nothing in the way of support in investigating the probable cause of real legitimate crimes; not those for which there is known criminal statute that would be applicable or that may have been violated, but simply, you know, there may be times when it is bad taste.

But the villainization of Donald Trump, Jr., for inquiring of someone that Loretta Lynch, as Attorney General for President Obama, specifically and personally stepped in to ensure could be in this country, it is just incredible how much is being made of Donald Trump, Jr., meeting with somebody that Attorney General Lynch pulled all kinds of strings to get her in and keep her in the country.

And then when you see that picture of this same person sitting right behind the Obama Ambassador to Russia, Ambassador McFaul, and you know at that time, he is an appointed and confirmed official like an ambassador, they don’t want somebody directly behind them who is not supportive and not capable of reaching up and handing them a note with information that may be helpful and them answering a question.

We have had countless hearings, and I have seen it done countless times. You want somebody behind you that can help provide answers to questions that you may not answer without their help.

So there she is, this person that these same friends who pulled all kinds of strings to get her in this country. They are all upset that she ever talked to Donald Trump, Jr., and I admire the fact that he immediately saw that this was a worthless meeting and walked away from it. So pretty amazing. It was good judgment to walk away from it, once he found out what she was about.

I wish that President Obama, Loretta Lynch, and Hillary Clinton had as good a judgment in their meetings with people instead of telling our enemy—and I do consider the man with whom President Obama was meeting an enemy. He was not a friend of the United States.

And what does President Obama do when he doesn’t think the microphone can pick him up?

He says: Tell Vladimir Putin—President Obama’s close buddy—tell Vladimir, my buddy, that I have a lot more flexibility once I am past this election. “Okay. Yeah. I will pass that on. Dah, dah, I will pass that on.”

Clear intent; there is no mistaking. The intent is: I will be able to give away more of America’s defenses the way I canceled our missile defense system in Poland once I am reelected because you don’t suggest that they give away a lot more of America’s defenses.

And what did our friends—who are now so upset about Donald Trump meeting with a Russian lawyer, finding out she was not worth meeting with and leaving—to back the wall that the whole—Nothing. They defended President Trump’s actions either vocally or by their silence while we were raising questions.

I can’t end this week without expressing my grave disappointment with Congress’s failure of the National Defense Authorization Act. There are a number of things in there that bother me that I think are big mistakes and that I don’t think we should be doing. I think we are wasting money, but compromises have to be made. We are making a form of sausage called “laws,” so we have got to compromise on some things.

So there are some things that are so important that there cannot be a compromise. It is too important. It will result in lives being saved or lives being lost, depending on what we do here in Congress.

So our friend, Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler, realized before I did that the law, as would be in the National Defense Authorization Act, with all the compromises that had to be made under the great leadership—and I am not being sarcastic—of Congressman Mac Thornberry—did a masterful job handling all the problems that arose—but the law of the NDAA was and will be, under this new law, such that President Obama and his administration would say, the way it is worded, the language was authorized that an appropriate use of this very limited more and more precious money for our military to defend us can and should be used whenever someone requests a sex change operation.

The reports are that, with the hormonal treatment, it can be around $130,000 or so per person. Military commanders advise that they have been told: If you have a military member under your command that asks for a sex change operation, you say something like “have you really thought this through?” or they say something like “why don’t you talk to a counselor?” or “let’s talk about this” or “you give it some more thought.”

Those are career-ending statements that that commander would have made; that if someone requests a sex change operation, you don’t ask questions, you don’t refer them to counseling, you don’t suggest that they give it more thought. You just sign them up.

Now, the problem there, too, is that apparently they are advised that they have about 2 years minimum that this servicemember will be out of commission, cannot be deployed. You can’t be sending them anywhere because you have months of hormonal treatment leading up to the sex change surgery.

And then even if there are no complications, the followup and the rehab is quite significant. So you count on at least a couple of years minimum where that servicemember, that military member cannot be sent anywhere, cannot be ordered deployed. They are useless in defense of our country as far as filling the immediate needs of the military, and that is astounding.

Now, potentially, some might submit that we have come to find out about maybe the greatest political lobbying by any group of our medical practitioners. And those who compile the diagnostic statistic manual, referred to as DSM—we have had I, II, III, IV, V—each time, they have been subjected to political lobbying because they didn’t...
The one thing that happened last night, that was considered to be a very serious illness, was psoriasis. It does not indicate that you are going to have a heart attack or a stroke, it means that is before word gets out that someone is going to have a heart attack or a stroke, it means confusion, basically. If you have got psoriasis, you are confused. It is the opposite of euthymia. You are not well, you are not happy, you have got behavioral problems because you are not happy with your gender.

Well, for most of our country’s history, we understood that, in our military, it is not to be a societal experiment. We want people who can fight, not only their death, but to see the lives of our military members, the amendment lost by five votes, 214–209. In other words, if three people had changed their vote, that amendment would not have happened. It is the opposite of euthymia. We are going to have them as a fighting machine. That is the Janissaries.

And when they pressed them into slavery, they wanted to have their crack troops—they were called Janissaries, and there were other troops too, as well. But when they did so in order to protect themselves from reproducing, I think of the circumstances in a little bit older history, back in the 16th century and the 17th century when the Ottoman Empire and the Muslim armies were sweeping across the countryside, and whoever they captured, they pressed into slavery.

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was a national security risk. Those were his exact words, “a national security risk.”

Well, if we can put the kids on a diet in school because it is a national security risk for getting people to meet the weight requirement for our military, isn’t this a national security risk that you have all of these resources that are redirected from F-35s and pension plans and a raise for our military and housing on our bases, and the list goes on and on, redirect those resources to sexual reassignment surgery and then have them mustered out of the service as soon as they get what they went into the service for in the first place? This is idiocy on the part of the United States Congress.

I salute the gentleman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) for introducing this amendment. I had a similar amendment that was turned down in the Rules Committee. But this is something this Congress made a significant error in not. Our Republicans and every single Democrat voted against this.

I thank the gentleman from Texas for bringing up the topic, and I would be happy to yield back to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for his comments.

In fact, some people sometimes think that we exaggerate, but my very good friend from Iowa and I have stood there on the mountaintop outside of Vienna where Western civilization stood there in the gap, and it was all at risk. The odds were that Western civilization was going to end with the fall of Vienna. If the radical Islamic group that had taken so much of the territory already, if Vienna fell, then the rest of Europe would fall. There would be no stopping this radical Islamic movement through Europe, and there is a good chance we are not even here in this fashion today.

I thought about that and my friend and I standing up there getting a briefing from an individual that knew the history so well, that this is where one group was, this is where the siege was, that is where the Polish group brought cannons, and no one in the Islamic group thought it was possible to get cannons up there.

I thought about that and reflected on that as President Trump was speaking in Warsaw and Poland, and it was clear how desirous the Polish people have always been for freedom: Yes, you can practice what religion you want to, but you can’t come try to take over our country and tell us we can’t pursue Christianity.

I did not realize until President Trump gave that speech that there in Warsaw, when Pope John Paul II, came, that they were screaming “We want God” as a group—amazing.

So as I recall, though, it was a Polish prince or king that came down. King Jan Sobieski who came to the aid of the Viennese people. They were under siege. They were going to be defeated. It meant the fall of Western civilization; perhaps we headed into a new Dark Ages. And this Polish king comes down, determined, gets cannon up on this mountaintop that no one who was in the 2 years of seeking a sex change operation and some realignment, as they say, they would do during that 2-year period. They got cannons up the mountain in position to help stop the obliteration there of the Western-civilized Vienna, to stop the fall of that radical Islamic empire from taking over and destroying Western civilization, making slaves of all of those whom they overtook.

And some, of course, in their party believed that if an individual refused to become a Muslim, they should be killed. Others believed in the more humane treatment that, no, you make them slaves, and as long as they keep paying their tax, which is really an admission that there is no God greater than the Islamic God, as long as they are willing to subordinate themselves and worship at the altar by paying that fee to show that they were subservient to the Islamic God, then they could be allowed to live.

Those were two problems back in that day: Do we let the people live if they won’t become Muslim, or do we just go ahead and kill them? And many humane thinkers thought: Well, no. As long as they will submit to our god, pay the tax to show they are submitting to their god, they have got to forget talking about that or they do need to be killed. Just pay the tax and they can go about still living.

If Vienna doesn’t stand, if it falls, as was anticipated, we are done.

And I can assure my friends here in the House that there was no one who was out there defeating the radical Islamic desire to wipe out Western civilization who had undergone a sex change operation in the prior 2 years.

This is a risky time in our history. As others have pointed out, no matter what societal experimentation people want to undertake, what type of lifestyles people want to undertake, the military is intended to protect our freedom so that we can pursue these things.

And I know President Obama was fond of saying: Gee, Guantanamo is a greater recruiting tool. But as I have talked to Muslim friends in other parts of North Africa, they say: You have got to understand, some of the things you do in the United States make for incredible recruiting posters for radicals in our Muslim faith.

When it is advertised that the United States Congress would rather spend that money on that surgery than defeating radical Islam, then it is an advertising, just a bonanza for the radical Islamists.

My Muslim friends tell me, they then agree, the recruiting: You are right. If that is how stupid they are, their society has no right to remain on the Earth. We need to take them out. They are too stupid.

A disappointing night last night and a disappointing week.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ANDERSON (at the request of Mr. McCARTHY) for today on account of a medical appointment.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to accordingly (at 2 o’clock and 1 minute p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, July 17, 2017, at noon for morning-hour debate.

OATH FOR ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Under clause 13 of rule XXIII, the following Member executed the oath for access to classified information:

JIMMY GOMEZ

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

1967. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing three officers to wear the insignia of the grade of major general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); ; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1968. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing three officers to wear the insignia of the grade of major general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); ; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1969. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing two officers to wear the insignia of the grade of major general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); ; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reinstatement of Critical Habitat Designations for Gray Wolves in Wyoming [Docket No.: FWS-R5-ES-2017-0025; FXES11133000000 167 FFS09E242000] (RIN: 1018-BG40) received July 12, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1980. A letter from the Acting Chair, Branch of Research and Statute Grants, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reinstatement of Critical Habitat Designations for the Silverspot Butterfly in Northwestern Oregon [Docket No.: FWS-R1-ES-2016-0102; FXES11130000000 179 FFS09E242000] (RIN: 1018-BG40) received July 13, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1981. A letter from the Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department’s Major final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting; Final Frameworks for Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations [Docket No.: FWS-R5-ES-2017-0023; FXM1231099BBPP0] (RIN: 1018-BH40) received July 12, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1982. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission’s final rule — Presmerger Notification; Reporting and Waiting Period Requirements; received July 12, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1983. A letter from the President, National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, transmitting the 2016 Annual Report of an independent audit of the Council, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 6710(b)(1) and 150909; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.


1985. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Port Huron Blue Water Fest Fireworks, Port Huron, MI [Docket No.: USCG-2017-0500] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 13, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1986. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s temporary final rule — Safety Zone; St. Ignace, MI [Docket No.: USCIG-2017-0472] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 13, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1987. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Port Huron Blue Water Fest Fireworks, Port Huron, MI [Docket No.: USCG-2017-0500] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 13, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1988. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s temporary final rule — Safety Zone; St. Ignace, MI [Docket No.: USCIG-2017-0472] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 13, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1989. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Cleveland Triathlon Swim Event; Lake Erie, Cleveland, OH [Docket No.: USCIG-2017-0506] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 13, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s interim rule — Security Zone: Potomac River, Montgomery County, MD (Docket No.: USCG-2017-0048) (RIN: 1625-AA87) received July 13, 2017, 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.

H.R. 3244. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for annual surveys of Federal employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BILLIKIS (for himself and Ms. CASTOR of Florida):

H.R. 3245. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to increase civil money penalties and criminal fines for Federal health care program fraud and abuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Miss RICE of New York (for herself and Mr. CICILINI):

H.R. 3246. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a Teacher Advisory Committee and a Parents and Families Advisory Committee; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BERA:

H.R. 3247. A bill to direct the President to develop and submit to Congress a strategy to protect United States interests in the Arctic region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. DE LA RUE of California, Mr. LOWENSTHAL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. NOLLY, Mr. PIETENG, Ms. PINGER, Mr. POLIS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. WELCH, Mr. LAN-GEVIN, Mr. TED LIU of California, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 3248. A bill to encourage water efficiency; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, Armed Services, and 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 Mrs. COMSTOCK:

H.R. 3249. A bill to authorize the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CROWLEY (for himself, Mr. NOLLEY, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. CLARK of New York, Mr. TONKO, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. JEFFRIES):

H.R. 3250. A bill to provide aliens who performed rescue, recovery, demolition, debris cleanup, or other related services after the September 11 terrorist attacks an opportunity to obtain permanent resident status.

By Mrs. COMSTOCK:

H.R. 3251. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the American Discovery Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CROWLEY (for himself, Ms. HINOJOSA of New Mexico, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. COOPER, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. SCHRACKOWSKY, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. KRANNA, Mr. LOPUREN, and Mr. CON-NOU:

H.R. 3255. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 regarding reasonable time for nursing break time for nursing mothers; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. McKINNEY (for himself, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. TONKO, Mr. COLLINS of New York, and Mr. LOEBSACK):

H.R. 3256. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to extend the eligibility for certain hydroelectric production and efficiency incentives; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ROKITA (for himself, Mr. BRAT, Mr. LOUDERMILK, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri):

H.R. 3257. A bill to provide certain reforms to promote accountability in the civil service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 3258. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to improve cost sharing subsidies; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SPEIER (for herself, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. COHEN, Mr. EVANS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. HINSMAN, Mr. KRINAN, Ms. HANABUR, and Mr. WALZ):

H.R. 3259. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for the establishment or support of a cybersecurity unit with the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 3260. A bill to provide passengers in air transportation with certain rights; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. TORRES (for herself, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. EVANS):

H.R. 3261. A bill to direct the Director of National Intelligence to submit to the Director of Central Intelligence an intelligence estimate of the revenue sources of the North Korean regime, and for other
pursues; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself and Mr. COULIENNE):

H. Res. 447. A resolution directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to Department of Homeland Security policies and activities relating to businesses owned or controlled by foreign persons.

By Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. BARRAGAN, and Mr. LANGROWN:

H. Res. 448. A resolution directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to Department of Homeland Security policies and activities relating to businesses owned or controlled by foreign persons.

By Mr. CORREA (for himself, Mr. LOWENSTEIN, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. LOFOREN, Mrs. COMSTOCK, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H. Res. 449. A resolution recognizing the accomplishments and the contributions of Vietnamese Americans; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Ms. BASS):

H. Res. 450. A resolution urging the Government of Kenya and Kenya’s political parties to respect democratic principles and hold credible, peaceful, and transparent elections in August 2017; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. NOLAN:

H. Res. 460. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the power of Congress to protect the right to vote; to the Committee on House Administration.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, section 8, clause 3, which reads: The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H. Res. 3244.

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. BIJIRI:

H. Res. 3245.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 1

By Miss RICE of New York:

H. Res. 3246.

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

Article I, Section VIII

By Mr. BEHA:

H. Res. 3247.

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

Article I, Section 1

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H. Res. 3248.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

By Mrs. COMSTOCK:

H. Res. 3249.

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

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

By Mr. CROWLEY:

H. Res. 3250.

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

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

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H. Res. 3251.

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

The constitutional authority for this bill is pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H. Res. 3252.

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, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LOEBSACK:

H. Res. 3253.

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

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H. Res. 3254.

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

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 Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H. Res. 3255.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H. Res. 3244.

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. MCKINLEY:

H. Res. 3256.

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. ROKITA:

H. Res. 3257.

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

Article I, Section VIII, Clause XVIII

To make all laws that shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. RUZI:

H. Res. 3258.

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. THOMPSON of California:

H. Res. 3259.

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

According to Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H. Res. 3260.

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. TORRES:

H. Res. 3261.

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

By Mr. TROTT:

H. Res. 38.

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

By Mr. WINKEL: Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. LONG, Mr. THORENBERRY, and Mr. NORMAN.

H. Res. 496: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. GREENE.

H. Res. 523: Mr. NORMAN.

H. Res. 721: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BRITTLER, Mr. THORENBERRY, and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 762: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors of bills and resolutions were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H. Res. 58: Mr. Trott.

H. Res. 113: Mr. DIGITETTE and Mr. Hill.

H. Res. 154: Ms. MENG.

H. Res. 367: Mr. NORMAN.

H. Res. 377: Mr. ESTES of Kansas.

H. Res. 422: Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. LONG, Mr. THORENBERRY, and Mr. NORMAN.

H. Res. 496: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. GREENE.

H. Res. 523: Mr. NORMAN.

H. Res. 721: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BRITTLER, Mr. THORENBERRY, and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 762: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
DISCHARGE PETITIONS—ADDITIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petitions:

Petition 1 by Ms. ESHOO on H.R. 305: Mr. Gomez

Petition 2 by Mr. SWALWELL of California on H.R. 356: Mr. Gomez
IN RECOGNITION OF ROBINSON FANS, INC. AND ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE KELLY
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Robinson Fans, Inc. and its celebration of 125 years as a solely owned family business. Small businesses like Robinson Fans, Inc. are important to both the economy and the community of Pennsylvania's third district. This year, the occasion of its 125th Anniversary, is an appropriate time to celebrate the hard work and outstanding achievements of this small business.

Robinson Fans, Inc., founded in Monongahela, Pennsylvania in 1892, has been operating in the town of Zelienople, Pennsylvania for over a century. This business has helped power locomotives, allowed commodity giants to dig the world's deepest mines, and employed numerous members of the community throughout the years. It has enhanced both the community and the economy, providing jobs and economic opportunity for generations of Pennsylvanians.

Robinson Fans has been victorious through some of America's worst hardships, including the Great Depression and several recessions, an economic feat of enormous scale. It has survived and thrived through multiple generations with new management and operation tactics that kept the business successful. Robinson Fans is now on its sixth generation. This is a remarkable accomplishment, considering most companies do not last beyond 20 years and only 3 percent of family-owned businesses make it to the fourth generation, according to the Family Business Institute.

As a supporter of small businesses like Robinson Fans, I am proud of its efforts and achievements in both the community and the economy. I am sure all my colleagues join me in applauding the valiant efforts of this business and other small businesses that continue to offer economic opportunity to our constituents and make our country a better place.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

SPEECH OF
HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 12, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2810) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strength for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak on House consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018.

I thank Chairman THORNBERRY and Ranking Member SMITH and the Armed Services Committee for their work on the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018. As a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security and Judiciary, I take our role in Congress as stewards of our nation's security seriously.

I offer my thanks and appreciation to the men and women of the armed services who place themselves in harm's way each day for the safety and security of our nation's people.

The National Defense Authorization Act's purpose is to address the threats our nation faces not just today, but into the future. This makes our work vital to our national interest and it should reflect our strong commitment to ensure that the men and women of our Armed Services receive the benefits and support that they deserve for their faithful service.

This is one reason why I have introduced a series of initiatives designed to confront the military challenges posed by violent extremism, terrorists engaging in ground wars, making more efficient the work of protecting America, addresses defense of our nation's computing networks and infrastructure, the medical health needs of service men and women in the armed services, and extends economic and education opportunity to small minority and women owned businesses.

We live in a dangerous world, where threats are not always easily identified, and our enemies are not bound by borders.

Russia's aggression towards the United States has long been understood, but in 2016 the stakes were raised in terms of how far they would go to harm our nation and Democratic institutions, when they interfered in our national election. Since September 11, 2001, we have kept a steadfast commitment to ending the threat of global terror.

Boko Haram, ISIS, and Al Shabaab remind us of how fragile our nation's security could be without a well trained and equipped military.

The introduction of cyber offensive actions against the United States and our interest has altered the definition of war and with it our understanding about what is needed to combat a unique type of enemy that fights under no flag, for any nation, and can cause harm to computing networks.

I appreciate the House Armed Services Committee's continued support of our national defense and support a number of provisions in H.R. 1735, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, such as authorities that support ongoing operations.

The amendments offered to this bill offered opportunities to address these and other Administration concerns will improve the bill. Let me discuss briefly the amendments I offered that were adopted by the House and included in the final version of the bill.

1. Jackson Lee Amendment No. 56 calls for increased collaboration with NIH to combat Triple Negative Breast Cancer and provides $10 million in appropriations.

2. Jackson Lee Amendment No. 76 directs the Department of Defense to prepare contingency plans to assist relief organizations in delivering humanitarian aid in South Sudan and to deescalate conflict.

3. Jackson Lee Amendment No. 83 directs the Secretary of Defense to prepare against deployment of North Korean nuclear ICBMs to prevent damage or destruction of satellites critical to U.S. national defense and global communications.

These Jackson Lee Amendments are straightforward, and make improvements to the bill.

There were 14 additional Jackson Lee Amendments that were not included in the Rule for consideration of the Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act.

The Jackson Lee Amendments to H.R. 2810 are in four categories:

1. National Security Amendments that protect and promote national security, national defense and U.S. foreign policy interests.
2. Counterespionage and Deterrence Amendments that uphold the interests of American citizens at home and abroad.
3. Healthcare, technology and know-how, and Opportunities for Women Amendments that promote advances in PTSD and Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Research and Professional Development and Business opportunities for women.
4. Cybersecurity Amendments that support the work of the DOD to ensure defense of our nation against cyberattacks.

I have submitted six amendments that protect and promote national security, national defense or U.S. foreign policy interests:

1. Jackson Lee Amendment No. 175 authorizes the Secretary of Defense to provide technical assistance by U.S. military women to military women abroad combating terrorism, human and narcotics trafficking and their impact on women and girls.

2. Jackson Lee Amendment No. 166 directs the Secretary of Defense to provide technical assistance to Nigeria in establishing a central missing persons' database and a Victims Relief Fund.

3. Jackson Lee Amendment No. 187 expresses concern of Congress that the International Military Education and Training (IMET) program is an important U.S. foreign policy and national defense instrument of value and asks Secretary of Defense to make maximum use of it.

4. Jackson Lee Amendment No. 184 directs Secretary of State to inform Congress of the feasibility of providing training, equipment and logistics to improve air traffic control systems in African countries where U.S. military operations require it.

The Jackson Lee Amendments No. 76 and No. 83 that were accepted by the Rules Committee and are under consideration by the House addressed the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan, and North Korea's Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Program.

These six Jackson Lee Amendments would have enhanced the effectiveness of the NDAA.
by protecting and promoting U.S. foreign policy and national security interests.

I have submitted three amendments to defend against espionage and provide deterrence against threats to the United States:

1. Jackson Lee Amendment No. 177 authorized the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress the programs employed to ensure Department of Defense National Security Education Program students studying abroad are trained to recognize, resist, and report against foreign governmental recruitment efforts.

2. Jackson Lee Amendment No. 181 required the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress on the extent to which the programs employed to ensure Department of Defense National Security Education Program students studying abroad are trained to recognize, resist, and report against foreign governmental recruitment efforts.

3. Jackson Lee Amendment No. 179 directed the Secretary of Defense to conduct and report to Congress the results of a study on whether requirement to notify Voting Action Officer within 10 days of registration in service member duty reassignment state imposes significant burden on military voters.

Two of these amendments sought to address known threats to our national interest and one would have assured that changes in voter registration rules for persons serving in the military would not impose an undue burden on voters.

Currently, there are 65 reactors being built around the world, and 69 percent of them are in Brazil, Russia, India and China. India has no fossil fuel resources and is expanding use of nuclear power to address shortfalls in electric generation capacity that is outstripped by economic growth. India is yet to have nuclear power be the source for 50 percent of its electricity needs by 2050.

I have submitted six amendments to enhance the NDAA:

4. Jackson Lee Amendment No. 224 provides $2.5 million increase in funding to come deliver the NDAA’s protection of America’s cybersecurity.

5. Jackson Lee Amendment No. 182 directs the Secretary of Defense to develop plans for early detection, mitigation, and defense against state-sponsored cyberattacks regarding elections and voter engagement efforts.

6. Jackson Lee Amendment No. 183 directs the Secretary of Defense to develop effective countermeasures to defend networks against attacks by cyber weapons.

Both of these Jackson Lee Amendments offered improvements to the NDAA’s protection of America’s cybersecurity.

In addition to these Amendments, I am in support of the AUMF Amendment offered by Representatives WALTER JONES and JOHN CONOVER that was not made in order by the Rules Committee.

Congress has an obligation to the American people to debate the issue of war.

Our military is now in theaters of war without Congressional approval which is in contravention to the Constitution because it states that only Congress has the power to declare war.

We must continue to direct our efforts as a body to ensure that our troops remain the best equipped and prepared military force in the world. They are not just soldiers they are sons and daughters, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters—people who we represent as Members of Congress. Support for them is a sacred obligation of Congress, both to those who are at risk on battlefields and serving as the guard against threats around the world, but they are also those who have returned home from war.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MIKE McGARVIN

HON. JIM COSTA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to pay tribute to the life and service of Mr. Mike McGarvin. Mike was the beloved founder of the Poverello House, a homeless shelter in Fresno which provides programs and support services to hundreds of people every day. For decades Mike touched the lives of least disadvantaged people in the Fresno area using one simple message, "Listen with compassion; give with a warm heart and a smile." Mike, or "Papa Mike," as he was affectionately known by many, was born in San Francisco, California in 1944. After early struggles in life, he found solace in a coffee house in San Francisco called Poverello that served food in need. The coffee house was run by a priest, who later asked Mike to volunteer there, an opportunity that proved to be life changing.

After seven years of volunteering at the San Francisco Poverello, Mike and his wife Mary moved back to her hometown of Fresno where he worked as a photographer for the local newspaper, The Fresno Bee. After observing Fresno’s homeless population, Mike was reminded of the connection shown to him at Poverello in San Francisco, and he pledged to find a way to give back.

Mike initiated his legacy by passing out peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to the home-

less and the hungry from the back of his car. Soon after, he purchased a small storefront and opened the Poverello House to help those in need in Fresno, naming his small outfit after the place in San Francisco that saved his life. Since its modest beginnings, the Poverello House has grown. It now provides three meals a day, 365 days a year to those in need as well as many other services, such as clothing distribution, emergency food bags, a medical clinic, the Men’s Resident Rehabilitation program, and temporary overnight shelter for men and women. The Poverello House is truly a source of salvation for countless individuals in our community.

Mike has been recognized many times throughout his life for his invaluable work, including an honorary doctorate from California State University, Fresno and the Pope John XXIII Award from the Italian Catholic Federation in honor of his years of humanitarian service.

Mike will be remembered by all for his boundless kindness and deep compassion. He leaves a legacy of service and selflessness, both through the Poverello House and in the hearts of the people whose lives he touched. He is survived by his wife of 46 years Mary, daughter Clare, and grandson Tyler.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in honoring the life and achievements of Mike McGarvin, whose passion for service and kindness has forever changed the lives of those in need in our community. I join Mike’s family and the Poverello House in honoring his life. He will truly be missed.

HONORING THE VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE PARK

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Village of La Grange Park as it celebrates its 125th Anniversary.

The Village was founded July 14, 1892, when 300 residents living in the southwest corner of Proviso Township came together to form what was then a unique suburb—a bedroom community with no business district or rail transportation. La Grange Park prides itself in being one of Illinois’ most lively and inclusive villages, in addition to being one of the most economically successful. Originally settled in the 1840s by Chicago residents who fled the rapid population growth of the city, La Grange Park quickly became a prominent Illinois farming town. From its quiet beginnings, La Grange Park has grown into one of the Chicago area’s most livable communities for its 13,579 residents.

In recent years, the Village has seen an influx of new residents, as young families have been drawn to the award winning private and public schools that serve the community, including Nazareth Academy, Lyons Township High School and Riverside-Brookfield High School. LaGrange Park also cherishes its senior citizens, providing three first-class senior living facilities.

Today, La Grange Park is still home to many residents of Irish, Italian, and German heritage, but the village has come a long way
from its humble beginnings as a farm town. With its gorgeous homes, safe communities, good schools, and over 13,000 residents, it’s no wonder that La Grange Park was named one of “The Best Places to Live” by CHICAGO Magazine. The village is also home to many prosperous businesses and attractions that draw visitors from other various parts of the Midwest.

La Grange Park’s contributions to the 5th District of Illinois and the state in general, can not be understated, and I am truly honored to be a part of this historic recognition. Mr. Speaker, I ask you all to join me in celebrating the Village of La Grange Park during this momentous occasion, and may they enjoy many more years of continued success.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

SPEECH OF
HON. MAC THORNBERY
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration H.R. 2810 to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. THORNBERY. Mr. Chair, I ask that the following exchange of letters be included in the RECORD on H.R. 2810:

House of Representatives, Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC, June 30, 2017.

Mr. Chair:

Dear Chairman Thornberry:

I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018. This legislation contains subject matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary. However, in order to expedite floor consideration of this important legislation, the committee waives consideration of the bill.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action only with the understanding that the committee’s jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered. The Committee also reserves the right to seek clarification from the House-Senate conference on this legislation and requests your support if such a request is made. Finally, I would appreciate your including this letter in the committee report on this bill and in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 2810 on the House Floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Boo Goodlatte
Chairman

House of Representatives, Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC, July 5, 2017.

Mr. Chair:

Dear Chairman Goodlatte:

I agree that the Committee on the Judiciary has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on the Judiciary is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

William M. “Mac” Thornberry
Chairman

House of Representatives, Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC, June 29, 2017.

Mr. Chair:

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018. I agree that the Committee on Natural Resources does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matter of the bill that fall within its Rule X jurisdiction. I also request that you urge the Speaker to name members of the Natural Resources committee to any conference committee to consider such provisions.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 2810 and that a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest will be included in the Committee Report and as part of the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill by the House.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform also asks that you support our request to be conference on the provisions over which we have jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Trey Gowdy
Chairman

House of Representatives, Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC, July 5, 2017.

Mr. Gowdy:

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018. I agree that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

William M. “Mac” Thornberry
Chairman

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY DAVIS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, July 13, 2017, I was absent from the House because I was unavoidably detained. Due to my absence, I did not record any votes on the Motion to Adjourn, first vote series, and second vote series. I would have voted “aye” on Roll Call 354, Roll Call 355, Roll Call 362, Roll Call 369, and Roll Call 371.

I would have voted “Nay” on Roll Call 353, Roll Call 355, Roll Call 362, Roll Call 369, Roll Call 371, Roll Call 362, Roll Call 369, Roll Call 371, Roll Call 363, Roll Call 364, Roll Call 365, Roll Call 366, Roll Call 367, Roll Call 368, and Roll Call 370.
Recognizing the 52nd Anniversary of the Older Americans Act

Hon. Joyce Beatty
Of Ohio
In the House of Representatives
Friday, July 14, 2017

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 52nd Anniversary of the Older Americans Act, a landmark bill signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on July 14, 1965.

The Older Americans Act provides critical support services for tens of millions of senior citizens and their families.

With 10,000 Americans turning 65 every day, our country has an obligation to keep these programs strong.

Older Americans should be able to live a life of dignity and independence.

However, that promise is under attack by the Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans.

Trumpcare will hurt older Americans by gutting Medicaid by $722 billion and allowing insurers to charge older Americans more money for less coverage, no matter their health status.

Not to be outdone, Trump’s very first budget would eliminate programs like Meals on Wheels and senior employment services, forcing countless older Americans into a life of hunger and poverty.

We cannot break our promise to our seniors.

Democrats will continue to fight to protect the Older Americans Act and ensure every American can live their full life with dignity.

Recognition of Fulbright Grantees

Hon. Dave Brat
Of Virginia
In the House of Representatives
Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize four constituents who received prestigious Fulbright awards during the 2016–2017 academic year. They are, Ms. Tyra Beaman of Glen Allen, Virginia, Ms. Ellen Korcovelos of Henrico, Virginia, Mr. Collax Phillips of Richmond, Virginia, and Ms. Eileen Wang of Glen Allen, Virginia.

These scholars will be joining alumni of the Fulbright program who have and will continue to be extraordinarily successful in their lives. Fulbright scholars go on to excel in nearly every sector of our economy, as well as serving in the highest levels of government and Congress.

According to the United States Department of State, more than 370,000 individuals from the United States and over 180 countries have participated in the Fulbright program since 1946. The Fulbright Student Program boasts that “The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is the largest U.S. exchange program offering opportunities for students and young professionals to undertake international graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and primary and secondary school teaching worldwide.”

This program is a terrific way for students to gain worldwide perspectives and learn valuable lessons from other countries. They are also taking with them the values that made America what it is today. They will build lifelong relationships and be ambassadors for America for years to come. Congratulations.

In Recognition of the Retirement of Lieutenant General Larry Wyche

Hon. Mo Brooks
Of Alabama
In the House of Representatives
Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Lieutenant General Larry Wyche, Deputy Commanding General, United States Army Materiel Command, and Senior Commander of Redstone Arsenal in my home state of Alabama, on the occasion of his retirement following more than 42 years of exemplary service to the United States Army.

Lieutenant General Wyche began his career as an enlisted soldier rising to the rank of Sergeant and he will retire with three stars. Those stars were not easy to come by. They were hard earned. Lieutenant General Wyche has been critical in transforming the manner in which Sustainment is provided to our Nation’s Warfighters and he has been a champion for the health and welfare of the Organic Industrial Base—our arsenals, manufacturing depots, and ammunition plants.

Lieutenant General Wyche has shaped and led the day-to-day operations of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, a $58 billion logistics enterprise, staffed by more than 120,000 Soldiers, Civilians, and Contractors for more than two years. The Command has a presence in all 50 U.S. states and 155 countries.

As Senior Commander of Redstone Arsenal in my district, Lieutenant General Wyche was in charge of the security and well-being of the more than 70 tenants, Soldiers, Army Civilians, and Families. Under his watch, the quality of life for residents and employees alike greatly improved.

Lieutenant General Wyche’s many stellar achievements are too many to recite, but they have had far reaching effects at home and abroad. As a Soldier, he deployed with the XVIII Airborne Corps to Haiti and did his part to restore democracy to that country during Operation Uphold Democracy. His bravery and courage were also tested in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Lieutenant General Wyche began his career earning stripes and retires having earned every one of his three stars. We thank him for his leadership. On behalf of all those touched by his service, we wish Lieutenant General Wyche and his wife, Denise, and their family, good luck, good ground, and Godspeed. Army Strong.

In Recognition of the 60th Anniversary of Easterseals Southern Georgia

Hon. Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Of Georgia
In the House of Representatives
Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I consider it my great honor and pleasure to extend my sincerest congratulations to the Easterseals Southern Georgia program as it celebrates 60 years of serving individuals living with disabilities and their families.

The Easterseals Southern Georgia will celebrate this significant milestone with a celebration on July 15, 2017 at the Doublegate Country Club in Albany, GA.

Easterseals Southern Georgia was brought to life by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Huie after they spent nearly eight years traveling back and forth from Atlanta with their daughter Carlton whose health was failing. After struggling to find a facility that accommodated her daughter’s needs, Mrs. Huie vowed to start a rehabilitation center in Albany to serve the disabled people of Southwest Georgia.

After nearly two years of letter writing and talking with every women’s group in Albany, Mrs. Huie convinced the Junior League of Albany to take on the sponsorship and they began working toward establishing what would become the Easter Seal Guild. In 1954, the Devane Home in Albany was rented, and later purchased for use. The center officially opened on November 25, 1957 and on November 21, 1961, the Easter Seal Guild was formed, boasting 25 charter members.

However, in 1990, the Easter Seal Guild dissolved and Easterseals Southern Georgia became a direct affiliate of the National Easterseals Organization. Through the changes, the program continued to grow into a multi-faceted organization, becoming even more responsive to the needs of the region it serves.

The programs for adults and children created by Easterseals Southern Georgia over the years have helped families of individuals who are amputees and those who suffer from traumatic physical and emotional injuries, developmental or intellectual disabilities, and mental illnesses by providing programs that are customized to their needs. The Easterseals Southern Georgia continues to provide these and new services to help ensure that each group’s needs are met.

Beyond working to provide opportunities to adults with disabilities, Easterseals Southern Georgia opened “Megan’s House” to serve families of children with disabilities. The house was so successful that the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities provided funds for a second home in Waycross, Georgia, and the U.S. Congress provided federal funds in 2009 for a third home in Valdosta, Georgia.

Since its inception in 1957, Easterseals Southern Georgia has served over 70,000 citizens in need and has aimed to ensure that those with developmental disabilities have valued roles in the community by administering training and other services that support individual choices and opportunities. Easterseals has expanded its area of outreach to underprivileged adults and children in Northern Florida and East Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia’s Second Congressional District in expressing our profound gratitude to Easterseals Southern Georgia for providing citizens with disabilities the long-lasting skills needed to be outstanding members of their communities.
IN HONOR OF JOSEPH NOUFAL

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my distress over the House’s response to President Trump’s recent comments on cyber-security cooperation with Russia.

The U.S. Intelligence Community has overwhelmingly concluded that Russia actively sought to influence the 2016 election through an active disinformation campaign, and covert cyberattacks. Yet this past weekend, in an act that confounded Republicans and Democrats alike, President Trump bragged about discussing with Vladimir Putin the possibility of establishing a joint cyber-security unit with Russia. The idea that we would cooperate with Russia on cyber-security, which would necessarily mean sharing some of our strategies, defies logic.

Naturally concerned by this reckless announcement, this week several of my colleagues and I offered amendments to H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 to prohibit such cooperation. However, House Republicans refused to bring a single one of them to the floor for consideration.

Not only has our President refused to fully accept the overwhelming evidence that Russia actively sought to influence our elections, he now continues to place our national security at risk by floating the absurd idea that we should actually cooperate with Vladimir Putin, who ordered this campaign against our democratic institutions, in order to guard against future cyber threats.

Mr. Speaker, it would be laughable, if it were not so shameful, that House Republicans are refusing to do anything to even consider prohibiting such a dangerous course of action by President Trump. Why not let the full House vote on this proposal? If any of my colleagues do think it’s a good idea to work with Russia on cyber-security, let them come to the floor and explain themselves.

What will it take before House Republicans take a stand against Russia’s actions? If we do not do it, then I promise you it will happen again in the next election.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

SPEECH OF
HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2810) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to the Franks Amendment No. 13 to H.R. 2810, the “National Defense Authorization Act” (NDAA), which would require the federal government to conduct so-called strategic assessments of Islamic religious doctrine.

I am shocked and appalled at this blatant attempt to single out Muslims for a religious test in a direct violation of the Constitution and our nation’s founding principles.

It frankly astounds me that such a hateful, discriminatory, and incoherent piece of religious bigotry has been made in order for this bill and is under consideration today.

To illustrate the sheer absurdity of this amendment, I would like to offer the amendment’s sponsor a brief lesson on the history of religious persecution and freedom in the United States.

In 1620, a group of English-born Puritans braved the Atlantic Ocean in order to found Plymouth Colony in the New World of America—they were fleeing, above all else, religious persecution in England, where discriminatory religious tests were common practice and the law.

On September 17, 1878, two and a half centuries later, 39 delegates signed the United States Constitution; in Article 6, Section 3 of the Constitution, they wrote that “no religious test shall ever be required . . . under the United States.”

In the First Amendment, they went even further: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”

Every child in America knows these facts about our nation’s founding.

The essential human right to freedom of worship, without fear of persecution or discrimination, is explicitly written into our genetic code as Americans.

What we do not teach our children is to associate any particular religion with the violent acts of a few extremists who claim to belong to that religion.

We understand that such an accusation would be irrational, intellectually dishonest, and ineffective at identifying and combating the real roots of violent extremism.

It would be remiss for me to neglect to point out that the Ku Klux Klan was founded and continues to identify as a Christian organization, or that racial terrorist Dylann Roof, who murdered nine innocent churchgoers in cold blood, was himself a member of a Lutheran church.

Yet Representative Franks’ amendment does not require any strategic assessments of “violent or unorthodox” Christian doctrine.

Instead, Amendment No. 13 wrongly casts the specter of terrorism upon all Muslim communities and individuals through the use of coded language like “strategic assessments.”

Nowhere does this Amendment acknowledge the fact that many Muslims, both domestically and abroad, have been contributing wholeheartedly to the U.S.’s mission to end violent extremism.

Amendment No. 13 mandates the identification of key Islamic leaders who practice any form of Islam, with no exception for those who have never violated any laws—this is not only a completely nonsensical proposition, but a dangerous violation of the principles of religious liberty, individual privacy, and equal protection as established by the First Amendment.

Amendment No. 13 requires the Secretary of Defense to create a “team of experts” to determine which practices and beliefs of the Islam are legitimate or acceptable—another direct violation of the Constitution.

Mr. Chair, this Amendment is a stain on our national honor and pride as Americans.
Muslim Americans make up a vital part of our nation’s diverse, multicultural fabric; every day, they make valuable contributions to the arts, the economy, academia, government, military services, and much more.

If it is passed, Amendment No. 13 would only further stigmatize and alienate a vibrant community of Americans who have been subjected to harassment and discrimination for years, and especially under the Trump Administration.

We are better than that and I urge all Members to join me in rejecting this terrible legislation.

INSURING SOCIAL SECURITY SOLVENCY FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 14, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security held a hearing to discuss the Social Security Administration’s Annual Trustee Report. This report is a strong reminder that Congress must act to address the Social Security Trust Fund shortfall to ensure the stability of Social Security for generations to come. The longer Congress delays dealing with this impending crisis, the fewer options we will have to address the shortfall.

Social Security is an essential program that prevents elderly Americans from falling into poverty once they reach retirement age or are disabled. Currently, Social Security covers 61 million seniors, and 171 million Americans pay into the system. The Trust Fund is divided into two divisions: Old-Age and Survivors insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI). These funds cover the 41.2 million retired workers, the 8.8 million disabled workers, and their families.

The long-term viability of Social Security is undoubtedly under threat. The Baby Boomers are beginning to retire which is putting significant pressure on the fund. Since Social Security collects fewer revenues than it previously did, it will be forced to draw from the 2.8 trillion dollars in asset reserve. The Social Security Administration Trustee’s report estimates that reserves are in danger of depletion by 2034. We cannot let this happen. A reduction in benefits for our seniors would be devastating for many of my constituents, who depend on Social Security payments as their only income in retirement. If benefits decrease, seniors who have paid into the system could be forced to choose between paying for their groceries, their utility bills, or their essential medication.

There are common-sense steps that Congress can take to stabilize the program and ensure it’s presence for the next century. The Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee, Congressman JOHN LARSON, has introduced H.R. 2100—the Social Security 2100 Act. I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 1902, which would simultaneously increase benefits for current and future seniors, reduce payroll taxes for middle class and working class Americans, and secure the solvency of the program until 2100.

This is accomplished by asking the wealthiest Americans to pay their fair share by raising the payroll tax cap on incomes above $127,000. There are reasonable solutions that both Democrats and Republicans should be able to support.

Congress cannot afford to abandon our seniors. We must address the Social Security shortfall now. Therefore, I call an Speaker RYAN to bring H.R. 1902 to the floor for a vote.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF VIETNAMESE AMERICANS

HON. J. LUIS CORREA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a House Resolution recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of Vietnamese Americans.

I represent part of one of the largest Vietnamese communities in the United States, and I am proud to recognize the valuable contributions of 1.7 million Vietnamese Americans currently living in the United States. The United States is home to the largest number of individuals of Vietnamese descent outside of Vietnam. Additionally, Vietnamese Americans make up the fourth largest Asian American population. Currently, more than 70,000 reside in California’s 46th Congressional District.

In the aftermath of the Vietnam War, approximately 800,000 Vietnamese refugees fleeing persecution resettled in the United States. Today, Vietnamese Americans contribute to American society through their work in business, education, science and technology, engineering, mathematics, literature and the arts, gastronomy, the armed forces, and public service at every level of government. Vietnamese Americans add to the rich cultural and religious diversity of our Nation. As a member of the Congressional Vietnam Caucus, it is critical that we continue to represent and celebrate our Vietnamese families, friends, and neighbors, and recognize their significant contributions to American society.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I was regretfully detained on July 13, 2017 during Roll Call No. 360, the Blumenauer Amendment No. 13 to H.R. 2810.

Had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call No. 360.

HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERAN ED GREEN

HON. LOU BARLETTA
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize my good friend Ed Green for his many years of service to this country, beginning with his time in the U.S. military and continuing thereafter with his many philanthropic endeavors.

During World War II, Ed proudly served as a member of the Navy, operating in a largely clandestine capacity. He lived and worked aboard armed Merchant Marine vessels, consistently risking his life to ensure the safety of those at home.

Upon his honorable discharge from the Navy, Ed continued his selfless dedication to helping others. He became an active member of the Freeland American Legion Post 473, a group committed to mentoring youth and promoting patriotism, honor, and devotion to service members and veterans within its community. Ed was also involved with the longstanding Veterans of Foreign Wars 5010. He served as Commander of the Military Order of the Coolies Pup Tent 38 in order to help bring smiles to the faces of fellow veterans and residents of the VFW National Home for Children.

Ed’s service to his community extended to various local philanthropic projects. For 60 years, he placed flags on the headstones of veterans at Vine Street Cemetery, and when the Standard Speaker newspaper ceased printing flags next to the obituaries of veterans, Ed was responsible for having the newspaper reinstate the practice. Additionally, he spent more than 50 years fighting for disability ratings from the Veterans Administration for hearing loss. He took the lead in organizing countless events during the past many decades, including Flag Day, Veterans Day, and Memorial Day celebrations that took place at locations such as the Laurel Mall and Calvary Cemetery. There is no doubt as to the profound impact Ed has had on the lives of those around him.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Ed for all he has sacrificed to serve our country and for all he has contributed to the Hazleton community.

HONORING THE CAREER OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR SCOTT C. SCHROEDER

HON. RICHARD HUDSON
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Command Sergeant Major Scott C. Schroeder. After 31 years of dedicated service, Command Sergeant Major Schroeder became the Command Sergeant Major for FORSCOM—a post he held for 3 years.

After enlisting in the United States Army in 1983, he began his career as an electronics mechanic at Fort Bliss, Texas. Serving at military installations all over the world allowed Command Sergeant Major Schroeder to gain

HONORING THE CAREER OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR SCOTT C. SCHROEDER

HON. RICHARD HUDSON
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Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Command Sergeant Major Scott C. Schroeder. After 31 years of dedicated service, Command Sergeant Major Schroeder became the Command Sergeant Major for FORSCOM—a post he held for 3 years.

After enlisting in the United States Army in 1983, he began his career as an electronics mechanic at Fort Bliss, Texas. Serving at military installations all over the world allowed Command Sergeant Major Schroeder to gain
valuable experience that would help shape his long career. While stationed at Fort Bragg in North Carolina’s Eighth Congressional District, he served with the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, and 82nd Airborne Division.

Deployed on numerous operational assignments all over the globe and through some of our nation’s toughest times, Command Sergeant Major Schroeder stood ready to answer the call to serve our great country. Some of his most notable engagements were Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia as part of the 82nd Airborne, and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq as part of the 101st Airborne Division. Throughout these operations, he delivered on the promise to keep America safe and confront our enemies on the ground under the most difficult conditions.

While fighting our nation’s battles overseas, Command Sergeant Major Schroeder had a full family at home. Residing in Charlotte, his wife of 26 years, Marla and he have 3 children. This country cannot repay the debt we owe to Command Sergeant Major Schroeder and his family; the Schroeders are true American heroes.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the retirement of Command Sergeant Major Scott C. Schroeder.

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RECOGNIZING SOUTHERN ARIZONA EFFORTS TO ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA  
OF ARIZONA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, one cannot overstate the immediate and extraordinary threat posed by antimicrobial resistance throughout our nation and around the globe. With that in mind, I wish to recognize the exceptional work being done in Southern Arizona to combat this scourge.

We know from the Centers for Disease Control that each year in the United States, at least two million people become infected with bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics and some 23,000 die as a direct result. Experts suggest that based on current trends, antibiotic resistance is one of the most serious threats to global health security.

Mr. Speaker, let me join in congratulating TMC and Accelerate Diagnostics for using the best available technology, and recognize TMC and Accelerate Diagnostics for being leaders on this critical issue.

COMMEMORATING BASTILLE DAY AND THE PEOPLE OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE  
OF TEXAS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Friday, July 14, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Bastille Day.

On this day we are reminded of the extraordinary resilience and democratic values that have made France an inspiration to the entire world.

Today also marks the one-year anniversary of the devastating and tragic loss of life last year in Nice.

We remember to keep the injured and the deceased in our hearts, and we remind ourselves of the strong, persevering character of the French Republic.

Time and time again, throughout history, the French have been able to demonstrate strong leadership as a nation, and this is why the United States stands in unyielding solidarity with the people of France, which like the United States, is one of the most welcoming nations in the world.

Mr. Speaker, Bastille Day in French is celebrated by special celebrations that feature art, dancing, and food. France embraces the challenges and opportunities of the modern world.

France, and the values it cherishes, showcases a nation that has faced and prevailed against the most sinister of lethal adversaries.

However, we will always ensure that they never confront these adversaries alone; they will be joined by the United States and the other countries of the civilized world.

The French are justly proud of their national motto: “Liberté, égalité, fraternité.” (liberty, equality, fraternity) and no perpetrator can ever succeed in leading them to renounce their heritage of freedom and justice.

NO SANCTUARY FOR CRIMINALS ACT (H.R. 3003) AND KATE’S LAW (H.R. 3004)

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM  
OF MINNESOTA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Friday, July 14, 2017

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3003 & H.R. 3004.

The No Sanctuary for Criminals Act (H.R. 3003) is a misguided attempt to defund communities that have enacted separation ordinances so-called “sanctuary cities.” This legislation would force state and local law enforcement to comply with potentially unconstitutional federal immigration policies, or risk losing critical federal funding. Intimidating our communities by threatening to withhold federal funding will not fix our nation’s immigration system. H.R. 3003 will add to the workload of our already overburdened local law enforcement and drive a wedge between them and the communities they serve.

Chiefes of police across our country support the enactment of separation of ordinances in the cities they serve and protect because it builds trust and keeps communities safe. I include in the Record a letter from the Law Enforcement Immigration Task Force, which St. Paul Chief of Police Todd Axtell is a member, that explains their strong opposition to this legislation.

The federal government should not mandate that local law enforcement turn into Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers. Kate’s Law (H.R. 3004) is also a step backwards for our country. For the first time in our history, the United States would prosecute individuals who voluntarily present themselves at the border to seek asylum or to seek protection as a victim of human trafficking.

This legislation would punish previously removed individuals who approach the border to apply for admission even if the individual has no criminal record or history of re-entries. I stand with my fellow Americans in upholding this country as a welcoming home for immigrants, and with my Democratic colleagues in supporting our local law enforcement with the tools they need to keep all our communities safe.

LAW ENFORCEMENT IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE  
June 28, 2017.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: As law enforcement leaders dedicated to preserving the safety and security of our communities, we have concerns about legislative proposals that would attempt to impose punitive, “one-size-fits-all” policies on state and local law enforcement. Rather than strengthening state and local law enforcement by providing us with the tools to work with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in a manner that is responsive to the needs of our communities, these proposals would represent a step backwards.

Attempts to defund so-called sanctuary cities are regularly swept too broadly, punishing jurisdictions that engage in well-established community policing practices or adhere to federal court decisions that have found federal immigration detainees to violate constitutional protections. We oppose these approaches and urge Congress to work to encourage—rather than compel—law enforcement-agency cooperation within our federal system.

We believe that law enforcement should not be cast as the enemy. Multiple have questioned the legality and constitutionality of federal immigration detainees who are not accompanied by a criminal warrant signed by a judge. Even though the legality of such immigration holds is doubtful, some have proposed requiring states and localities to enforce them, shielding them from lawsuits.

While this approach would reduce potential legal liability faced by some jurisdictions and departments, we are concerned these proposals would still require our agencies and officers carry out federal directives that could violate the U.S. Constitution, which we are sworn to follow.

Immigration enforcement is, first and foremost, a federal responsibility. Making our communities safer means better defining roles and improving relationships between
local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities. But in attempting to "sanctuary cities" and require state and local law enforcement to carry out the federal government's immigration enforcement responsibilities, the federal government would be substituting its judgment for the judgment of state and local law enforcement agencies. Local control has been a beneficial approach for law enforcement for decades — having the federal government compel state and local law enforcement to carry out new and sometimes problematic tasks undermines the delicate federal balance and will harm locally-based policing.

Rather than requiring state and local law enforcement agencies to engage in additional immigration enforcement activities, Congress should focus on overdue reforms of the broken immigration system to allow state and local law enforcement to focus their resources on true threats — dangerous criminals and criminal organizations. We believe that state and local law enforcement must work together with federal authorities to protect our communities and that we can best serve our communities by leaving the enforcement of immigration laws to the federal government. Threatening the removal of valuable grant funding that contributes to the health and well-being of communities across the nation would not make our communities safer and would not fix any part of our broken immigration system.

Our immigration problem is a national problem deserving of a national approach, and we continue to recognize that what our broken system truly needs is a permanent and well-being of communities across the nation would not make our communities safer and would not fix any part of our broken immigration system.

Our immigration problem is a national problem deserving of a national approach, and we continue to recognize that what our broken system truly needs is a permanent solution—road-based immigration reform.

Sincerely,

Chief Chris Magnus, Tucson, AZ
Chief Roy Minter, Peoria, AZ
Chief Sylvia Moir, Tempe, AZ
Ret. Chief Robert Villasenor, Tucson, AZ
Chief Charlie Beck, Los Angeles, CA
Ret. Chief James Lopez, Los Angeles County, CA
Sheriff Margaret Mims, Fresno County, CA
Sheriff Mike Chitwood, Volusia County, FL
Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald, Story County, IA
Chief Wayne Jerman, Cedar Rapids, IA
Sheriff Bill Moczygemda, Polk County, IA
Public Safety Director, Mark Prosser, Storm Lake, IA
Sheriff Lonny Pulkrabek, Johnson County, IA
Chief Mike Tupper, Marshalltown, IA
Chief William Bones, Boise, ID
Ret. Chief Ron Teachman, South Bend, IN
Ret. Chief Randy Williams, Garden City, KS
Commissioner William Evans, Boston, MA
Ken Ferguson, Framingham, MA
Chief Brian Kyes, Chelsea, MA
Chief Tom Mercer, Montgomery County, MD
Chief Todd Axtell, Appleton, WI
Chief Todd Thomas, Appleton, WI

Signatures updated as of June 28, 2017 5 PM ET.

In January of 1942, just after America entered the war, the unit moved to Alaska to help protect American territory from the Japanese. Service during World War Two also included deployments to England and France. The unit would be called into federal service once again in 1963.

The men and women of the 115th would again answer our nation's call to service after the attacks of September 11, 2001 amidst our efforts to neutralize terrorist threats around the world.

The first call to support the War on Terrorism would be in 2003 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, returning home in 2005. Then, in 2011, the unit would be sent to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Now, in 2017, like so many Alabama Guard Units, the 115th which has companies in Florence, Haleyville and Huntsville, is once again standing up to serve our nation. The unit will be sent to the Middle East to support and defend our nation's vital interests abroad.

Mr. Speaker, Congress' appreciation along with our continued admiration for these men and women and the service they provide to the United States of America is reflected here today.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF ROSEANN BURKART SERRANO

HON. JIM COSTA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 14, 2017
Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of Mrs. RoseAnn Burkart Serrano. Mrs. Serrano dedicated her life to serving her family and her community. She was a volunteer, member, board member, and president of many organizations, both in Le Grand and in the surrounding areas of Chowchilla, Merced, Fresno, Mariposa, and Planada. Mrs. Serrano is a shining example of what it means to make a difference in the world and she serves as a model of determination and selflessness for all who knew her.

Born in Fresno, Mrs. Serrano graduated from San Joaquin Memorial High School in 1962 before earning a degree in Liberal Studies from Fresno City College. Mrs. Serrano continued her education at California State University, Fresno, where she was a music and history major. At Fresno State, Mrs. Serrano served as the district secretary for the college Catholic organization and met her future husband, David Serrano, through her membership in the Newman Club at the St. Paul Newman Center. After their marriage, Mrs. Serrano began working with her husband at his agricultural business, and she soon became an integral part of Serrano Farms. Besides being a full-time homemaker and mother, Mrs. Serrano irrigated, ran machinery in their almond orchards and cotton fields, and managed the farm's business records and payroll.

In addition to her role at Serrano Farms, Mrs. Serrano was also active in numerous organizations, such as California Women for Agriculture, USDA Farm Services Agency Committee, the National Federation of Independent Business, and the Plainsburg Elementary
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

E995

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the nation’s community corrections professionals and the vital role they play in enhancing public safety throughout the United States. In honor of the invaluable contributions of these dedicated public servants, the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) and its associated members have designated the week of July 17 through 23 “Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week 2017.” I thank the thousands of men and women who perform these important public safety duties, and urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in support of APPA’s week-long recognition efforts.

In my congressional district, the nation’s capital, thousands of women and men serve as pretrial, probation and parole officers or administrators. As public servants, these constituents, along with many other Americans, use their skills and experiences to help others and improve the lives of those involved in the criminal justice system. The work of these professionals ultimately results in stronger and safer communities for all.

Community corrections professionals are responsible for the supervision of adult and juvenile offenders in communities throughout our nation. These trained professionals go above and beyond the call of duty by connecting their clients to supportive services, community-based resources, employment opportunities, housing programs and other evidence-based practices that help individuals successfully complete supervision and reenter society. Community corrections professionals strive to provide these services and support, while simultaneously providing client surveillance, crime prevention and rehabilitative justice.

In honor of Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week 2017, I take the opportunity to recognize those who carry out community corrections and supervision services here in the District of Columbia, including the officers and professionals of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA). CSOSA and the Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia (PSA) are dedicated to reducing recidivism and enhancing public safety in the nation’s capital. CSOSA and PSA are recognized as model community correctional entities because of their use of evidence-based practices and community partnerships.

On any given day, CSOSA is responsible for supervising approximately 11,000 individuals on probation, parole or supervised release, while PSA supervises over 17,000 defendants over the course of a year. Charged with having to balance issues of public safety with social services and reentry support, the employment of CSOSA and PSA help to enhance the security of everyone who lives, works or visits the District.

Mr. Speaker, again, I extend my gratitude to these public servants for their commitment,
compassion and contributions to healthier and safer communities throughout the United States. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in acknowledging the impact community corrections professionals have on the quality of life of all Americans throughout our country by recognizing July 17 through 23 as Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week 2017.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY DAVIS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, July 12, 2017, I was absent from the House during the second vote series because I was unavoidably detained. Due to my absence, I did not record any votes for the second vote series. Had I been present, I would have voted: nay on Roll Call Votes 350 and 351, and aye on Roll Call Vote 352.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND DR. RALPH WALTER HULING
HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding Man of God, and friend of long standing, Reverend Dr. Ralph Walter Huling, who will celebrate his 30th anniversary as the distinguished pastor of St. James Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia. An anniversary worship service will be held on Sunday, August 6, 2017 at the church at 5214 St. James Street in Columbus.

Dr. Huling is a native of Columbus, Georgia. He served our nation honorably as a Chaplain in the U.S. Army. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Science degree from Troy State University in Phenix City, Alabama and went on to earn a Doctorate in Pastoral Theology from Anderson Theological Seminary in Camilla, Georgia. He utilizes this education to further the next generation by serving as an Adjunct Professor of Psychology at both Chattahoochee Valley Community College and Columbus Technical College.

Throughout his pastoral career, Dr. Huling has played a leading role in several religious-affiliated and community-based organizations. In addition to serving as Pastor of St. James Missionary Baptist Church, he has also pastored at New Hope Baptist Church in Lumpkin, Georgia for 24 years. He is a Presbyter of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance; faculty member of the National Baptist Convention; certified deacon in the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education; moderator of the Mt. Moriah Baptist Association; and International Instructor in the German Congress of Christian Education. In addition, he has served as the President of the Columbus Clergy Class.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Dr. Huling is an active member of many civic organizations where he continuously seeks to pour his time and energy into his community. He is the President of 100 Black Men of Columbus; 2nd Vice Chairman of the Urban League Board of Directors; Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Enrichment Service Program; and a member of the Who’s Who Board of Directors for Non-Profits of Georgia. He serves on the Board of Directors of Head Start and the Board of Directors for the Golf Authority in Columbus, Georgia.

Dr. Huling is a strong advocate for restoring the family unit. He retired as a Family Service Coordinator from the Muscogee County School District. In addition, Dr. Huling wrote a book titled, “The Biblical and Cultural Concepts of Marriage and Family Life.” He travels around the world teaching and counseling couples and those seeking to be married. He has received numerous humanitarian awards including the President Award from the Georgia Family Service Coordinators Association.

Dr. Huling has achieved much in his life but none of it would be possible without the love and support of his loving wife of 35 years, Dorothy; his daughters, Nekita and Daisha; and grandson, Nolan.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me, the congregation of St. James Missionary Baptist Church, and the more than 730,000 residents of Second Congressional District in extending our sincerest congratulations to the Reverend Dr. Ralph Walter Huling. A man of great accomplishment, he is an outstanding mentor, strong leader, and prominent community activist, but above all, he is a faithful servant of God.

HONORING THE 185TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAXONBURG
HON. MIKE KELLY
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Borough of Saxonburg in honor of their 185th Anniversary. Located in Butler County Pennsylvania and home to approximately 1,500 residents, Saxonburg is a quaint town with a significant history. Named for the German state of Saxony, Saxonburg was founded in 1832 by immigrant John Roebling, an admirable architect and engineer. Roebling, whose presence can still be seen and felt today, is responsible for designing the town of Saxonburg and creating an agricultural community that offered immigrants a new life in America.

Roebling revolutionized the art of bridge building when he invented the wire rope from his workshop in Saxonburg, which now serves as a museum and historical landmark for tourists. On July 16, 1842, Roebling was granted a patent for his wire rope invention, marking this year as the 175th Anniversary of Roebling’s patent on bridge construction and worldwide transportation in general.

Although Saxonburg has seen many improvements and updates, there has also been a collective effort to maintain its original and unique character. There are countless historic landmarks and structures that have been preserved and maintained, telling the story of days gone by. Saxonburg captured the designation of a historic district on the national level in 2004 and on the state level in 2008, which is a testament to the overall importance of this specific area. If you have the privilege to visit Saxonburg, you will gain a solid understanding of its iconic legacy and unique roots.

Present day citizens of Saxonburg are justifiably proud of their past, especially as they reach these type of momentous milestones. Therefore, as the people of Saxonburg celebrate the anniversary of their founding, I congratulate them on the past 185 years of experiences and accomplishments and wish them continued happiness and success moving forward.

HONORING SONIA SEPULVEDA-DEMPSEY
HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sonia Sepulveda-Dempsey, who was recently inducted into the Rio Grande Valley Sports Hall of Fame.

Sonia began running competitively when she was in the seventh grade. While a student at Edinburg High School, she qualified for state three times. Sonia excelled on the track and was recruited heavily by many colleges and universities in this area. She eventually chose to attend Baylor University in Waco, Texas, where she joined their Track and Field Program. During her college years, Sonia was part of the second fastest relay team in Baylor’s history.

Inspired by her first grade teacher, who she refers to as her “haven,” Sonia became an educator following her graduation from Baylor. She currently works as a testing facilitator at Edinburg North High School, where her husband serves as the band director. Sonia has been an educator for two decades. She also periodically gives motivational speeches to student athletes, a testament to her passion for athletics and commitment to student athletes.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Sonia Sepulveda-Dempsey on the occasion of her induction to the Rio Grande Valley Sports Hall of Fame, and recognize her contributions to education and student athletes in South Texas. Today, I am proud to honor Sonia Sepulveda-Dempsey.

TRIBUTE TO GARY GREENE, ESQ. AND HIS BIG BAND OF BARRISTERS
HON. BRAD SHERMAN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Big Band of Barristers and to recognize their founder, attorney Gary S. Greene.

Gary Greene, Esq. and His Big Band of Barristers perform music from the Golden Era of Big Band Swing. Gary S. Greene organized the band in December 2011 as an adjunct to the 75-member Los Angeles Lawyers Philharmonic and the 100-member chorus, Legal Voices. These musicians are civil litigators, trial attorneys, in-house counsels, sole practitioners, partners at law firms, judges and justices, paralegals, law students and the like.
The members include conservatory graduates and professional musicians as well as some who only played in their youth. The mission of these musical groups is to bring the legal community together in harmony to perform and raise funds for organizations providing legal services for those who cannot afford them as well as for other charitable causes and civic events. The Big Band has performed concerts for the American Diabetes Association, the American Legion, Shrine Hospitals for Children, The Thalians, Magen David Adom, the City of Hope, Hollywood Remembers World AIDS Day, Ascena (raising funds for housing for the homeless), the Beverly Hills Bar Association’s 80th and 85th Anniversaries, Loyola Law School’s 50th Anniversary, and for justices of the California Supreme Court.

On Friday evening, July 14, 2017, Maestro Greene and the Big Band of Barristers will perform in the Great Hall of the Library of Congress. Speakers at this program include the Librarian of Congress, Dr. Carla Hayden, and Thomas V. Girardi, Esq.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my House colleagues to join me in congratulating Maestro Greene and of Barristers along with the Los Angeles Lawyers Philharmonic for all their achievements.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF COLONEL CHRISTOPHER T. DREW

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely grateful for the opportunity, on behalf of myself and my constituents, to honor Colonel Christopher T. Drew, District Commander for the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)—Chicago District. Throughout his command, Colonel Drew has shown unwavering dedication to improving the quality of life for the people of the District under his command. Colonel Drew will relinquish his command to Colonel Aaron W. Reisinger on July 21, 2017, at which time he will complete his exemplary career in the United States Army.

In 1992, Colonel Drew began his selfless twenty-five year military career in the United States Army. For the past thirty years, Colonel Drew completed tours in Texas, New York, California, Missouri, and Kansas, before arriving in Chicago. He was also deployed several times, serving in Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti, Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq. Colonel Drew handled every assignment with courage, honor, and merit. He is regarded as a most gifted teacher who excels at bringing people together to solve problems and helping individuals become the best versions of themselves. For his distinguished service, Colonel Drew is the recipient of numerous awards and citations, including two Bronze Star Medals, two Defense Meritorious Service Medals, four Army Meritorious Service Medals, four Air Force Commendation Medals, five Army Achievement Medals, one Joint Meritorious Unit Award, and two Meritorious Unit Commendations, as well as the Sapper Tab, Ranger Tab, Air Assault Badge, and Parachutist Badge.

Colonel Drew took command of the USACE—Chicago District in 2014. During his time as District Commander in Chicago, his leadership has played a significant role in the organization’s accomplishments, most notably in Northwest Indiana. The USACE initiated an ecosystem restoration project at the Portage Lakefront Park in 2015, in which sixty-five acres were restored, complementing the infrastructure of the USACE to open up public access to Lake Michigan. In East Chicago, Colonel Drew joined city officials to break ground on a shoreline restoration project that will enhance amenities to allow residents to enjoy the lakefront, while benefiting a diverse ecosystem. Stormwater and sanitary sewer projects were initiated by the Colonel’s leadership, in partnership with local sponsors in various communities, which improve water quality throughout the region and ultimately improve the quality of life for residents in numerous communities. Work continues on the Little Calumet River Flood Control and Recreation Project, which protects residents along the river and creates opportunities for increased economic development, and the dredging of the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal carries on apace. These projects and others stand testament to Colonel Drew’s commitment to the USACE’s mission to work with its partners to energize the nation’s economy through its civil works projects, as they likewise improve the quality of life in areas such as Northwest Indiana. I am grateful for his generosity of spirit, his meticulous work ethic, and his dedicated life of service.

Colonel Drew’s outstanding career is exceeded only by his devotion to his beautiful family. He and his amazing wife, Rochelle, have two beloved children, Ian and Amara. Mr. Speaker, Colonel Drew has selflessly served his country and his fellow Americans. He has been a steadfast and proven leader throughout his remarkable career, one that has been instrumental in producing and developing the talents of the next generation. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Colonel Christopher T. Drew for his honorable service to the United States of America and in wishing him well upon his retirement.

SUPPORT OF FY18 NDAA

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 14, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 2810, the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act. As a Member of Congress, one of my most sacred duties is to help promote and ensure the safety and security of our nation. We are truly grateful and indebted to the brave men and women who have sacrificed their lives to protect our freedom and democracy. This legislation takes great strides towards ensuring that our military is equipped with the most advanced, state of the art technology and military capabilities to defend and protect our nation from our enemies. As a member of the Seapower and Projection Force Committee, I have been privileged to serve on this important legislative body. The FY 2018 NDAA bill authorizes $630 billion for base budget requirements as well as $64.6 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations. Additionally, this legislation contains several provisions that would equip, supply, and train our military forces. The priorities of the National Security Strategy make investments in the areas of military readiness, cyber warfare, and the ability to seize opportunities in the maritime domain. As such, I believe that the FY 2018 NDAA supports the Administration’s commitment to the USACE’s mission to work with its partners to energize the nation’s economy through its civil works projects and to improve water quality throughout the region and ultimately improve the quality of life for residents in numerous communities. Work continues on the Little Calumet River Flood Control and Recreation Project, which protects residents along the river and creates opportunities for increased economic development, and the dredging of the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal carries on apace. These projects and others stand testament to Colonel Drew’s commitment to the USACE’s mission to work with its partners to energize the nation’s economy through its civil works projects, as they likewise improve the quality of life in areas such as Northwest Indiana. I am grateful for his generosity of spirit, his meticulous work ethic, and his dedicated life of service.

Colonel Drew’s outstanding career is exceeded only by his devotion to his beautiful family. He and his amazing wife, Rochelle, have two beloved children, Ian and Amara. Mr. Speaker, Colonel Drew has selflessly served his country and his fellow Americans. He has been a steadfast and proven leader throughout his remarkable career, one that has been instrumental in producing and developing the talents of the next generation. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Colonel Christopher T. Drew for his honorable service to the United States of America and in wishing him well upon his retirement.

HONORING EDWARD CARL DEUTSCHSMAN

HON. JIMMY PANETTA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward Carl Deutschsmann for his outstanding service to our nation. A longtime resident of the central coast of California and a fellow sailor, he passed away this June at the age of 93.

Not long after graduating high school in 1941, Mr. Deutschsmann enlisted in the Navy and attended the Del Monte Pre-Flight School in Monterey. Today, this site is the center of the renewed Naval Post Graduate School, one of many prominent military institutions in my district.

During WWII, Mr. Deutschsmann was soon assigned to the USS Intrepid and flew over the Pacific Ocean on many combat missions. He flew a Corsair as a member of the Grim Reaper VF–10 Squadron in April of 1945, providing vital air cover for the U.S. Marines. Mr. Deutschsmann was also a lead pilot during the amphibious assault of Okinawa—the final and largest of the Pacific island battles during World War II. Later he participated in an air raid over Tokyo. The anti-aircraft fire was so intense that, as he later recounted, “you could almost get out of the plane and walk on the stuff coming up.” Years after, he maintained close ties to the pilots who fought beside him, reuniting with them each year to reminisce in old stories and enduring friendships.

While Mr. Deutschsmann returned to the mainland and swapped his cockpit for the classroom, armed with an undergraduate degree in business from California State University—Fresno.
and a graduate degree in education from the University of Southern California, he discovered his passion for teaching. Over more than thirty years as an elementary school teacher, principal, and assistant superintendent, Mr. Deutschman made a positive impact on the lives of thousands of students.

In his retirement, he returned to California’s Central Coast and continued his goodwill on behalf of organizations like the Grey Bears, Boy Scouts of America, Rotary International, and as a board member of Good Shepherd Housing. Edward Deutschman represented the best of his time, not only as a solider and educator, but as a dedicated family man to his late wife Katherine Bell Thomas, children Kathleen Deutschman Scott, Robert Edward Deutschman, granddaughter Tigest Scott Macauley, and great-grandsons Ibrahim Macauley and Abdul Rahman Macauley. On behalf of California’s 20th District, it is my honor to recognize this American hero, Edward Carl Deutschman.
Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session and stands adjourned until 3 p.m., on Monday, July 17, 2017.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 21 public bills, H.R. 3241–3261; and 5 resolutions, H.Res 446–450 were introduced.

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

- H.R. 1422, to amend the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 to require that certain buildings and personal property be covered by flood insurance, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–220);
- H.R. 2565, to require the use of replacement cost value in determining the premium rates for flood insurance coverage under the National Flood Insurance Act, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–221); and
- H.R. 806, to facilitate efficient State implementation of ground-level ozone standards, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–222).

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Simpson to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.


Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 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.”

Agreed to:

- Thornberry en bloc amendment No. 3 consisting of the following amendments printed in H. Rept. 115–217: DesJarlais (No. 16) that requires National Nuclear Security Administration to provide Congress with a list of unfunded requirements; Plaskett (No. 49) that converts the Overseas Housing Allowance to Basic Housing Allowance for the US Virgin Islands; Bera (No. 54) that requires a report from the Department of Defense on its activities and priorities with respect to infectious disease; Kuster (No. 55) that allows DoD to support VA in their adoption of an Electronic Health Record System and to require DoD and VA to jointly submit annual reports to Congress on their progress in developing a fully interoperable health record; Jackson Lee (No. 56) that calls for increased collaboration with NIH to combat Triple Negative Breast Cancer; Soto (No. 57) that encourages the transition of military medical professionals into employment with the Veterans Health Administration upon discharge or separation from the Armed Forces; Conaway (No. 58) that repeals subsection 190(f) of title 10, United States Armed Services with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 190 ayes to 235 noes, Roll No. 377.

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Code, to ensure a consistent approach is used to determine when qualified private auditors should conduct incurred cost audits for Department of Defense contracts; Pittenger (No. 59) that prohibits DOD from contracting with telecom firms found by ODNI to be complicit with DPRK cyberattacks; DeSanctis (No. 60) that requires an assessment on procurement from Chinese companies providing support to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and authorizes the Secretary of Defense to terminate contracts based on a determination informed by the assessment; Velazquez (No. 61) that adds the threshold for construction contracts that must be bonded under the Miller Act as an exclusion, since increasing this threshold exposes more small construction businesses to loss of payment protection on federal construction projects; Murphy (FL) (No. 62) that authorizes Procurement Technical Assistance Centers, established pursuant to the Procurement Technical Assistance Program administered by the Defense Logistics Agency, to assist eligible small business owners in pursuing opportunities during all phases of the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs, which enable small businesses to engage in federal research and development that has the potential for commercialization; Fitzpatrick (No. 63) that directs the Secretary of Defense to raise the priority of completing DOD Directive 2310.07E in order to clarify processes and efficiencies in recovering the remains of heroes missing in action, via the POW/MIA Accounting Agency; Soto (No. 64) that requires the Secretary of Defense to brief the House Armed Services Committee on a strategy to ensure that there is sufficient expertise, oversight, and policy direction on developmental test and evaluation within the Office of the Secretary of Defense after the completion of the reorganization of such Office required under section 901 of Public Law 114–328; Schiff (No. 65) that expresses a sense of Congress that in the interest of justice and efficiency, military judges should provide victims of terrorism and their families the opportunity to provide recorded testimony; Schiff (No. 66) that allows military judges to use video conferencing to improve efficiencies of military commissions; Schiff (No. 67) that requires proceedings for military commissions to be publicly available on the internet; Kildee (No. 68) that requires the Administration to articulate projected casualties and costs associated with the deployments of members of the Armed Force to Afghanistan as well as the objectives of said deployments and a timeline to achieve these objectives; Delaney (No. 69) that limits funds that support the closure of a bio-safety level 4 lab until the federal agencies who rely on the lab have certified to Congress that the closure will not negatively affect biodefense capabilities; Comstock (No. 70) that strikes language regarding the elimination of the STARBASE Report, and adds the STARBASE Report to the list of ‘Preservation of Certain Additional Reports’; and Carbajal (No. 71) that strikes language that would remove a National Guard Youth Challenge Report;

Thornberry en bloc amendment No. 4 consisting of the following amendments printed in H. Rept. 115–217: Gottheimer (No. 72) that strikes the language that eliminates an annual report to Congress on support to law enforcement agencies conducting counter-terrorism activities; Fitzpatrick (No. 73) that directs the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on the related health effects of exposure to PFOS/PFOA at military installations; Boyle (No. 74) that expresses the sense of Congress that it is in the national security interest of the Department of Defense to assist Ukraine to improve its cybersecurity capabilities; Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX) (No. 75) that requires the Secretary of the Army to construct a memorial marker at Arlington National Cemetery to honor the three astronauts who died in the Apollo 1 spacecraft fire; Wilson (SC) (No. 76) that requires the President to submit a comprehensive, interagency strategy for countering violent extremist groups that pose a threat to the United States or its interests; Thornberry (No. 77) that requires a comprehensive report on defense industrial base vulnerabilities and the concentration of purchases; also creates a database of certain transactions and purchases involving foreign persons; Moulton (No. 78) that establishes Congressional Charter to enable Spirit of America to assist the Department of Defense to utilize donated assistance to meet needs and support of U.S. missions abroad; Connolly (No. 79) that directs the Secretary of Defense to conduct a review of existing DoD policy on DoD civilian employee air travel to and from Afghanistan in order to explore commercial or alternative air travel for DoD civilian employees; Davidson (No. 80) that requires collaboration between FAA and DOD on unmanned aircraft systems research and development of standards and policies; Rohrabacher (No. 81) that adds a stipulation requiring that, prior to the disbursement of certain funds, the Secretary of Defense certify to Congress that Pakistan is not using its military or any funds or equipment provided by the United States to persecute minority groups seeking political or religious freedom; Poe (TX) (No. 82) that adds an additional certification criteria required for waiving coalition support funds to Pakistan; the new addition requires the Secretary of Defense to certify Pakistan is not providing military, financial, or logistical support to specially designated global terrorists operating in Afghanistan or Pakistan;
Moore (No. 83) that requires the U.S. strategy on Syria to identify State Department and Defense Department funding by year to implement it, to identify the legal authority for U.S. forces in Syria to accomplish military objectives; requires a separate assessment of how the humanitarian situation in Syria affects the achievement of U.S. goals, including how the U.S. intends to respond to the humanitarian crisis including aiding Syrian refugees and internally displaced persons; Nolan (No. 84) that prohibits the use of funds authorized by this Act to be made available to deploy members of the Armed Forces to participate in the ongoing civil war in Yemen; Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM) (No. 85) that requires the Secretary of the Air Force to brief the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee on efforts to increase diversity in the civilian workforce; Gallego (No. 86) that requires reporting on deployments of U.S. forces to Syria; Lamborn (No. 87) that requires a report from the President, along with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of National Intelligence, regarding the use by the Government of Iran of commercial aircraft and related services for illicit activities; Nolan (No. 88) that prohibits funding from the Counter-ISIS Train & Equip Fund to recipients that the Secretary of Defense has reported as having previously misused provided training or equipment; Engel (No. 89) that requires a report to Congress on the defense and security relationship between Serbia and the Russian Federation; Cheney (No. 90) that requires a report from the President on options available in response to a failure by Russia to achieve reductions required by the New START Treaty by February 5th, 2018; and Walker (No. 91) that requires DoD to submit a report to Congress on bilateral ports of call with Taiwan; Moving forward:

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Thornberry en bloc amendment No. 5 consisting of the following amendments printed in H. Rept. 115–217: Engel (No. 92) that requires notification to Congress when changes are made to previously reported legal or policy frameworks guiding national security operations; Ted Lieu (CA) (No. 93) that requires a report from the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State on the extent to which Saudi Arabia is abiding by its commitments in Yemen, including adherence to the U.S.-provided No Strike List and improving its targeting capabilities to avoid civilians; Crowley (No. 94) that expresses the sense of Congress that respect for human rights should be part of United States policy; Gallagher (No. 95) that requires an assessment of U.S. security and defense implications of China’s expanding global access; Yoho (No. 96) that normalizes the transfer of defense articles and defense services to Taiwan; Duncan (SC) (No. 97) that establishes a Sense of Congress that the security, stability, and prosperity of the Western Hemisphere region are vital to U.S. national interests; the U.S. should ensure an appropriate forward presence in the region and build partner capacity; DOD should commit additional assets and increase investments to the region; and DOD should engage the region by strengthening relations to address shared challenges; Bishop (MI) (No. 98) that expresses the Sense of Congress that the President should call on NATO allies to fulfill their mutual defense commitments, should call on NATO allies to secure national and regional security interests, and should recognize NATO allies who are achieving those objectives; Kelly (PA) (No. 99) that prohibits funds from being used to implement the UN Arms Trade Treaty unless the Senate approves a resolution of ratification for the Treaty and implementing legislation for the Treaty has been enacted into law; Engel (No. 100) that requires the Secretary of Defense to designate an existing Department of Defense employee as responsible for coordinating the Department’s existing obligations to protect cultural heritage; Soto (No. 101) that requires the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of Energy, and the Secretary of State to jointly submit to Congress a report on space-based nuclear detection; Fitzpatrick (No. 102) that directs the Secretary of Defense to define “deterrence” in a cyber operations landscape, and assess how this definition affects the overall cyber operations strategy in the Department of Defense; Franks (No. 103) that updates some of the balance of funds to the Israeli Missile Defense would enable the Israelis to spend funding authorized in the bill on procurement and RDTE; Lamborn (No. 104) that requires Initial Operational Capability of a boost phase ballistic missile defense capability by Dec. 31, 2020; Young (AK) (No. 105) that promotes an integrated, layered ballistic missile defense system incorporating THAAD, Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense, Aegis Ashore, and Patriot Air and Missile Defense Systems, as well as authorizing additional GBIs, and accelerating the completion of the EIS for an interceptor site on the East Coast and in the Midwest of the U.S. Missile Defense Testing; Hunter (No. 106) that amends section 1696 by striking an exception to 10 U.S.C. § 2377 and adding a certification requirement; and Rogers (AL) (No. 107) that amends the bill for construction of the previously authorized AEGIS Ashore Missile Defense Complex at Redzikowo Base, Poland, the Secretary of the Navy may construct a 6,180 square meter multipurpose facility, for the purposes of providing additional berthing space on board the installation;
Thornberry en bloc amendment No. 6 consisting of the following amendments printed in H. Rept. 115–217: Simpson (No. 108) that authorizes the Secretary of the Air Force to convey to the City of Mountain Home, Idaho approximately 4.25 miles of railroad spur near the Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho for economic development; Bishop (UT) (No. 109) that removes certain deed restrictions and reversions associated with conveyance of property of former Defense Depot Ogden, Utah; Bustos (No. 110) that requires the Secretary of Defense to certify that there is not suitable space in an existing military installation before they buy or lease space valued at over $750k annually; Brat (No. 111) that creates a process for foreign governments to petition DOD to return surplus property to that government; savings are available for readiness programs; Rice (SC) (No. 112) that would require the Secretary of Defense to issue modifications to all relevant construction and facilities specifications to ensure that machine-room less elevators are not prohibited in buildings and facilities throughout the Department of Defense; the Secretary shall promulgate interim standards making these specification changes not later than 180 days after enactment, and final standards not later than 1 year after enactment; Ben Ray Luján (NM) (No. 113) that requires the Administrator for Nuclear Security to report on the recommended alternative for the recapitalization of plutonium science and production capabilities; requires certification by the Department of Defense that the recommended alternative is acceptable; and requires the Government Accountability Office to review the analysis of alternatives; Larsen (WA) (No. 114) that requires development of a plan for verification and monitoring relating to the potential proliferation of nuclear weapons and their components, and fissile material; Carbajal (No. 115) that requires the Secretary of Energy in consultation with the Department of State to develop a plan to further minimize the use of highly-enriched uranium for medical isotopes; Hunter (No. 116) that provides additional resources for the Coast Guard’s retirement account; the amendment also exposes foreign owners and operators of oil production facilities to liability for clean-up costs and damages from oil spills that threaten or cause damage in the United States; Moulton (No. 117) that requires a comprehensive political and military strategy for U.S. involvement in Syria and enumerates specific reporting requirements due within 90 days of enactment; Langevin (No. 118) that requires a report regarding the mission continuity of the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center; Comstock (No. 119) that expresses the sense of Congress stating that the federal government should ensure that in its actions it does not unduly or artificially distort competition in the market for new commercial satellite servicing activities; Davidson (No. 120) that prohibits use of funds for military operations in Yemen outside of the scope of the 2001 AUMF; and Marino (No. 121) that requires a report to be made by the Secretary of Defense to the congressional defense committees on the procurement of tungsten and tungsten powders; Pages H5855–60

Lamborn amendment (No. 15 printed in H. Rept. 115–217) that was debated on July 13th that normalizes the operational test and evaluation process for the ballistic missile defense system by conforming the condition for proceeding beyond low-rate initial production in line with all other major defense acquisition programs (by a recorded vote of 235 ayes to 189 noes, Roll No. 373); Pages H5862–63

Byrne amendment (No. 17 printed in H. Rept. 115–217) that classifies a vessel being repaired or dismantled to be a “recreational vessel” if the vessel shares elements of design and construction of traditional recreational vessels and is not normally engaged in a military or commercial undertaking when operating (by a recorded vote of 244 ayes to 181 noes, Roll No. 374); Page H5863

Hunter amendment (No. 18 printed in H. Rept. 115–217) that addresses forum selection for claims from foreign maritime crews (by a recorded vote of 234 ayes to 190 noes, Roll No. 375); and Page H5864

McGovern amendment (No. 43 printed in H. Rept. 115–217) that requires the Secretary of Defense to design and produce a military service medal for radiation-exposed veterans (Atomic Veterans) (by a recorded vote of 424 ayes with none voting “no”, Roll No. 376). Pages H5864–65

Rejected:

Tenney amendment (No. 122 printed in H. Rept. 115–217) that sought to reinstate the Berry Amendment’s longstanding domestic sourcing requirement for stainless steel flatware and provides for a one year phase-in period; and Pages H5860–61

Franks amendment (No. 13 printed in H. Rept. 115–217) that was debated on July 13th that sought to require the Secretary of Defense to conduct strategic assessments of the use of violent or unorthodox Islamic religious doctrine to support extremist or terrorist messaging and justification (by a recorded vote of 208 ayes to 217 noes, Roll No. 372). Page H5862

Agreed that the Clerk be authorized to make technical and conforming changes to reflect the actions of the House. Page H5868

H. Res. 440, the rule providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2810) was agreed to yesterday, July 13th.
Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12 noon on Monday, July 17th for Morning Hour debate.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Seven recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5862, H5862–63, H5863, H5864, H5864–65, H5866–67, and H5867–68. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

Committee Meetings

A REVIEW OF FIXED INCOME MARKET STRUCTURE
Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Securities, and Investment held a hearing entitled “A Review of Fixed Income Market Structure”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE TRAGIC CASE OF LIU XIAOBO
Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled “The Tragic Case of Liu Xiaobo”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES
Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing on H.R. 873, the “Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act”; H.R. 1547, the “Udall Park Land Exchange Completion Act”; H.R. 2582, the “Confirming State Land Grants for Education Act”; and H.R. 3115, the “Superior National Forest Land Exchange Act of 2017”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Nolan, Moulton, Love, McSally, and Gallagher; Tim Spisak, Acting Assistant Director for Energy, Minerals, and Realty Management, Department of the Interior; Michael Ortega, City Manager, Tucson, AZ; John W. Andrews, Chief Legal Counsel, Associate Director, Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, Salt Lake City, Utah; and a public witness.

SOCIAL SECURITY’S SOLVENCY CHALLENGE: STATUS OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUNDS
Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Social Security held a hearing entitled “Social Security’s Solvency Challenge: Status of the Social Security Trust Funds”. Testimony was heard from Stephen C. Goss, Chief Actuary, Social Security Administration.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, JULY 17, 2017
(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate
No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House
Committee on Appropriations, Full Committee, markup on Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2018, 7 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.
Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 806, the “Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2017”, 5 p.m., H–313 Capitol.
Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 3218, the “Harry W. Colmery Veteran Educational Assistance Act of 2017”, 7:30 p.m., 334 Cannon.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
3 p.m., Monday, July 17

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Patrick M. Shanahan, of Washington, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination at 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
12 noon, Monday, July 17

House Chamber

Program for Monday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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