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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC, July 26, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE COFFMAN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

DEFENDING DACA

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday, I was a guest at Lincoln United Methodist Church in Chicago, where we had an emergency meeting to discuss how we would defend the DACA—Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals—initiative started 5 years ago.

DACA has allowed nearly 800,000 DREAMers—immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children and who grew up here—to work and live here if they meet certain requirements, go through a background check, and renew their application periodically.

Now, Republicans, led by the Governor of Texas, are planning to sue the President if he doesn’t rescind DACA. And given this President and his opinion of Mexicans, Latinos, and immigrants, we are not expecting the President to put up much of a fight.

So for a few weeks now, I have been telling people to prepare for the end of DACA, maybe as soon as September. You can watch the speech on Facebook or YouTube. A lot of Trump supporters got angry about what I said on Saturday. They didn’t even take the time to watch or listen to my speech, no. They got fired up by Breitbart, the only publication I can count on to cover everything I say.

Breitbart said I was unhinged and said in the headline that I said it is time to eliminate Trump and bring him to his knees. The Washington Times didn’t watch the speech but saw Breitbart’s fair and balanced coverage and said I threatened Trump with physical violence.

FOX News then echoed the idea that evening, saying I was threatening violence and would bring our violent movement to every neighborhood in America. So by the time you got to The Daily Stormer—that whipped cream on top of the White Nationalists/Neo-Nazi banana split—they cited the FOX News story and read the headline, “Subversive Beanman Luis Gutiérrez Calls for Trump’s Elimination.”

If FOX, Breitbart, and Daily Stormer report something, it has got to be true, I thought. So I went back to the video to see if I had threatened to assassinate the President.

And you know what? I didn’t. Here is what I said this past Saturday: “I am going to make sure that I am there, to make sure of one thing, that we write those articles of impeachment and take the Trump administration to trial before the Senate and eliminate him as President of the United States. He cannot fire Comey, threaten to fire Mueller, and say ‘I am the king.’ I am a butcher,” Mr. President, “but my favorite part of the Breitbart headline and the whole bloodthirsty Brown people motif that drove the coverage from Breitbart to FOX to Daily Stormer is that I said I wanted to bring President Trump to his knees.

But what I actually said was, Gandhi, by employing the techniques and practices of nonviolent resistance, brought...
the British Empire to its knees. Which is actually true, and we should learn from his example.

Indeed, Dr. King, a disciple of Gandhi, applied those strategies to the American civil rights movement to great success. And were it not for Dr. King and the other heroes who laid down their lives during the civil rights movement, I would not be standing here before you, and we wouldn’t even be standing up or talking about The Daily Stormer, Breitbart, or Trump in defending immigrants and other vulnerable communities.

So we owe the civil rights movement a great debt. I want to follow in those footsteps.

So I read the headlines in Breitbart and I went back to look at what I actually said. You know what? I stand by it and I won’t back down.

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. Ros-Lehtinen) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the alarming crisis that is ocean acidification. This is not only an environmental issue, but it is an economic issue as well, and one that greatly impacts my congressional district in south Florida.

South Florida’s world-famous beaches, delicious seafood, incomparable fishing, boating, and sailing, and spectacular marine life are all dependent on a healthy ocean. However, our oceans are becoming more and more acidic as seawater absorbs increasing amounts of carbon pollution, causing what is known as ocean acidification.

This increased acidity makes it harder for corals, oysters, shrimp, lobster, and other sea animals to develop their shells or skeletons, which they rely on for survival to grow. These organisms are extremely important to the vitality of our ecosystem.

In addition, corals host a vast number of ocean species, protects coastlines from large waves and hurricanes, and attract visitors with its beauty.

Data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—NOAA—also suggests that tourism, recreation, and fishing related to south Florida’s coral reefs alone generates more than $4.4 billion in local sales and $2 billion in local income.

Ocean Conservancy, which is a tremendous environmental advocacy group, has been a champion in raising awareness about the negative impact of ocean acidification. Recently, they premiered an outstanding documentary, a short film which highlighted two gentlemen who either work for or own ocean-dependent businesses that are located in my congressional district.

Dale Palomino, right over here, this fine-looking young man, is he the general manager and head chef at Captain’s Tavern Restaurant and Seafood Market, a family-owned business in Miami and one of my favorite places to dine with my husband, Dexter, and our grandkids.

And Captain Ray Rosher, right here, who owns and operates Miss Britt Charter Fishing and R&A Tackle in Coconut Grove, also located in my congressional district.

In addition, this film highlights ocean expert, Dr. Chris Langdon, a professor from my alma mater, the University of Miami—Go Canes. His research on coral reef ecosystems has allowed us to better understand the capacity and limitations of coral to adapt to a changing physical and chemical environment. Dr. Langdon has also been a leader in bringing stakeholders together to learn about the threats posed by ocean acidification to commercial and recreational fishing and tourism industries throughout Florida.

These two gentleman know a lot about the impact of ocean acidification on their business because saltwater recreational and commercial fishing combined support an estimated 175,000 jobs across our beautiful Sunshine State.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly astounding the amount of jobs and revenue that come out of ocean-related industries. Our country enjoys thousands of miles of coastlines with so many people benefiting from their environment and providing jobs and nutrients for their family. From the oyster hatcheries in the Pacific Northwest, to the lobster in Maine, and South to the reefs and fish in Florida, the real world implications of ocean acidification will spell trouble for these ocean-dependent jobs, which is why we must not wait until the tragedy truly unfolds.

My constituents and I are also blessed to live, to work, and to play in the paradise that is south Florida. Our kids and our grandkids, they want to enjoy the same positive experiences we have, but in order to do so, it is vital that we act now.

In Congress, we need to do a better job at listening to all stakeholders who are speaking out, and we need to continue to promote the valuable work of researchers, people like Dr. Langdon, the work they are doing to ensure that these important marine research institutions and organizations have the resources they need.

My district is home to a community that cares deeply about the ocean, and it is because of the efforts of folks like these two gentlemen and Dr. Langdon of south Florida that I have learned more about the issues and what is at stake.

I remain committed to continue to work with my colleagues, with industry experts, with all stakeholders in tackling head-on the important issues related to ocean acidification and the adaptation solutions to the changing ocean around us and, indeed, across the globe.

RETURNING TO REGULAR ORDER

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we watched as Senator JOHN MCCAIN returned to the Capitol after having been diagnosed with cancer and undergoing surgery. All of us are praying for his swift and full recovery.

In earlier days, as we all know, he faced danger with courage. He is doing the same again right now. When he spoke yesterday from the Senate floor, he said about his fellow legislators, Republicans and Democrats, despite their differences, worked together to make progress, albeit incremental, on major issues through discussion and compromise.

He lamented, as did I, the recent tendency to seek total partisan victory or nothing at all, something we see as much in the House as in the Senate.

Senator MCCAIN said this: ‘‘We’ve been spinning our wheels on too many important issues because we keep trying to find a way to win without help from across the aisle.’’

He concluded in that paragraph: ‘‘. . . we are getting nothing done.’’

Instead, Senator MCCAIN proposed that important issues ought to return to regular order. Regular order, for those who aren’t familiar with the day-to-day workings of Congress, simply means doing things in the proper way: drafting a bill in committee, holding open hearings to mark up amendments, reporting it out, and then bringing it to the floor for amendment and debate before voting on it. This process, this regular order of business affords every member an opportunity, regardless of party or district, to have input and help shape the policy. That is the way it should be.

The product of such a process, as Senator MCCAIN described it, would be ‘‘something that will be imperfect, full of compromises, and not very pleasing to implacable partisans on either side.’’

But he concluded it was one that ‘‘might provide workable solutions to problems Americans are struggling with today.’’

Mr. Speaker, that is how our system is supposed to work.

I started my career in this body in 1981. Shortly thereafter, I joined the Appropriations Committee. I like to tell people that I served on the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, and there were 13 of us, including 10 Republicans, and 3 of us, including 3 Democrats and five Republicans. I used to tell people that you could take the 13 of us, throw us up in the air, have us come down in random seats, have a markup, and you would have been hard-pressed to identify which committees we represented. Today, lamentably, Mr. Speaker, it would take you about a minute to determine those differences.
Our Speaker said on October 29, 2015: “We will advance major legislation one issue at a time.” Mr. Speaker, we are about to consider a so-called minibus. The former chairman, my Republican friend, Mr. ROGERS, is seated here in this chamber with a notion, we both call a time when we considered one bill at a time. We brought it to the floor, we amended it, we debated it, and we voted on it one bill at a time.

That is what Speaker RYAN was referring to when he said: “We will advance major legislation one issue at a time.” Apparently, Mr. Speaker, that has become inconvenient or impossible, but it is not the regular order that we are pursuing.

Speaker RYAN went on to say: “We will not duck the tough issues. We will take them head on.” Mr. Speaker, we will adopt a rule that will duck the issue that will preclude full debate, and it deals with President Trump’s proposal to build a wall that many in his administration believe will be ineffective in accomplishing the objective that we all support, and that is keeping our country secure and making sure that those who come into this country are known to us and don’t sneak into the country.

But the wall will not work and we will not be able to debate that fully because it will be included in the rule. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that is ducking the issue. It will be deemed passed. We won’t vote on it. We will vote for the rule or against the rule, and the wall and $1.6 billion will be deemed passed.

Mr. Speaker, that is not how our system is supposed to work. Neither side ought to let the perfect become the enemy of the good. Neither side can claim credit for all of the best ideas. That is why working together is imperative.

That was my experience when I served for 23 years on the Appropriations Committee, the reason regular order is so important. It protects the American people. It protects each Member who is here representing some 700,000 people, give or take. That is why regular order is so important. It facilitates dialogue and debate. It brings out every view and idea and provides the framework for compromise.

Compromise is the essence of democracy, and I suggest it is the essence of successful families, whether they be countries or Mom and Dad and kids. They come together and they agree, not because they get everything they want or the other side gets nothing they want, but because both sides compromise.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with Senator MCCAIN we need to return to regular order.

Speaker RYAN, as I have said, told us shortly after his elevation that he wants “the House to work its will.” Minibuses don’t allow that, omnibus they don’t allow that, and, frankly, CRs don’t allow that.

The Speaker adopted, in principle, an open and transparent process. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, we haven’t always seen that. But there is still an opportunity for the 115th Congress to reflect that vision.

That is what Senator MCCAIN was talking about yesterday. He was appealing to the best of us, the American people, not the partisan in us, not the confrontationalist in us, but the seeker of productive compromise in a democracy. The Congress and our country will be better if we return to regular order.

AFGHANISTAN IS THE GRAVEYARD OF EMPIRES

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, on July 18, I wrote to President Trump about my concern. I am writing because I am very disappointed because we continue to lose American lives. “Sir, I am writing today because you seem to have had a change of heart on this issue.”

I gave four examples of positions he has taken and tweets that he has sent out. I am just going to read two of them, Mr. Speaker.

“I am going to read just sentences very quickly.”

“Disappointed because after 16 years in Afghanistan, Congress deserves another vote on this conflict. Disappointed because almost $1 trillion of taxpayers’ money has been spent with no direct goal or strategy. And most importantly, I am disappointed because we continue to lose American lives.

“Sir, I am writing today because you seem to have had a change of heart on this issue.”

In August of 2011, you agreed with Ron Paul and said the U.S. was ‘wasting lives and money in Iraq and Afghanistan.’

Another tweet: “The next year, you said on Twitter, ‘Do not allow our very stupid leaders to sign a deal that keeps us in Afghanistan through 2024—with all costs by USA.’

And the last I would like to read: “You also tweeted that year: ‘Lot’s get out of Afghanistan. Our troops are being killed by the Afghanis we train and we waste billions there. Nonsense! Rebuild the USA.’

I further stated: “Mr. President, I agree with your remarks, and so does the 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps, my friend and unofficial adviser, General Chuck Krulak. As he said in a recent email to me, ‘No one has ever conquered Afghanistan . . . and many have tried, the list of nations that have tried and failed.’”

I do not understand why this Congress and the leadership of this House will not let us have another debate. I put a bill in with JOHN GARAMENDI, H.R. 1666, for the only reason that, after 16 years, we have not debated the future of Afghanistan.

A report was out last night that the Russians are sending sophisticated weapons to the Taliban in Afghanistan, who will be fighting and killing Americans. I continue to call on the House leadership to please let us meet our constitutional responsibility and debate.

I have said, with H.R. 1666, that JOHN GARAMENDI and I have put in, join us in forcing a debate on the House and then vote against us, but give us a debate.

I further said to the President, “Once you come to a consensus”—and this is raising the troop levels—“I suggest you publicly go before the American people and U.S. military to explain the benchmark, then Trump would agree to stay strong.”

Why are we going to send more Americans to fight and die in Afghanistan?

And also give the American people an idea of what we are trying to achieve. For 16 years, there have been no end of the troops in my district who have been there three, four, and five times, and I will say to them, “What have we accomplished?” and they will say back to me, “Very little. Very little.” Yet we sit here in Congress and we are spending billions of dollars. We will have a vote in 2 days to spend billions of dollars on Afghanistan, and there is very little accountability. This is not what this House needs to be doing, especially when we are sending our young men and women to give their life for this country.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD this letter to President Trump and ask President Trump to please stay strong in his beliefs and that it is a waste of money, life, and time to be in Afghanistan.


President DONALD J. TRUMP, The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Many of us in the U.S. House of Representatives believe we have been denied our sacred duty to debate and declare war. You could say that I am disappointed by this. Disappointed because after 16 years in Afghanistan, Congress deserves another vote on this conflict. Disappointed because almost $1 trillion of taxpayers’ money has been spent with no direct goal or strategy. And most importantly, I am disappointed because we continue to lose American lives.

Sir, I am writing today because you seem to have had a change of heart on this issue. In August of 2011, you agreed with Ron Paul and said the U.S. was "wasting lives and money in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Another tweet: "The next year, you said on Twitter, 'Do not allow our very stupid leaders to sign a deal that keeps us in Afghanistan through 2024—with all costs by USA.'

And the last I would like to read: "You also tweeted that year: 'Let's get out of Afghanistan. Our troops are being killed by the Afghanis we train and we waste billions there. Nonsense! Rebuild the USA.'

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I do not understand why this Congress and the leadership of this House
Mr. President, I agree with those remarks, and so does the 31st Commandant of Marines Corps, my friend, and unofficial advisor, General Chuck Krulak. As he said in a recent email to me, ‘He has never conquered Afghanistan . . . and many have tried. We will join the list of Nations that have tried and failed.’

Mr. President, that is why I am asking you to review this thinking before approving any troop level increases from General Mattis. I believe you would see great benefit and wisdom in asking Congress to debate and vote on troop level increases as well. You would then have the American people and their elected officials share a decision to send more American sons and daughters into harm’s way. Once you come to a consensus, I suggest you publicly go before the American people and U.S. military to explain the benchmarks you choose for Afghanistan.

Previous administrations have not been able to clarify those endpoints, which is unfair to taxpayers and our troops. In the end, we all share this responsibility, and it is time that not only Congress but also the American people have a say. Sixteen years is enough! Afghanistan is the graveyard of empires! We do not want a tombstone to read—‘United States of America.’

Respectfully,

WALTER B. JONES, Member of Congress.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I close by showing the face of a little girl who is standing there with her mother and wondering why her daddy is in a flag-draped coffin, and I could not explain to her. He died in Afghanistan. I don’t know why he is dead in a flag-draped coffin.

God bless our men and women in uniform, and God bless America.

RENegotiation of trade agreement

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Trump administration released its NAFTA renegotiating objectives, which laid out its plan for how to fix that bad trade deal for America’s workers, but it lacks specifics.

Yes, America needs a better deal, better jobs, better wages, for a better future for our people and the people of our continent. As renegotiations begin in August, let us remember the devil is in the details. The President’s rhetoric alone is not enough. Action is what creates jobs.

Nearly 30 years ago, NAFTA was sold as the epitome of a modern trade agreement. Its supporters promised U.S. job growth. They guaranteed trade balances and even surpluses. They said there would be increased economic ties between our people and new buyers of American goods.

But guess what. Those promises didn’t materialize. Instead, U.S. workers faced enormous job loss, declining wages, sublevel wage competition from desperate millions in Mexico, whose workers have no rights.

The recent tragedy in San Antonio with all of those desperate workers in that truck is the tip of an iceberg of labor exploitation on this continent that was caused by NAFTA, enhanced by NAFTA. It is so ugly.

The cold, critical measure of the job-hemorrhaging truth this country has experienced since NAFTA’s passage is our trade balance. That is how many more products and services our country exports rather than imports from offshore sweatshops. That translates into jobs.

Since the inception of NAFTA, our trade deficit has ballooned to unprecedent levels. This chart basically goes through what has been happening recently. Each month and each year, we go deeper and deeper into trade deficit, not just with Mexico, but a number of other countries. But there has not been a single year of trade balance with Mexico since NAFTA’s passage, just more job dissolution and job loss.

Just in May, the United States experienced an overall $46 billion trade deficit with the world, of which NAFTA is a part. But since NAFTA’s passage—get this—our country has accumulated nearly $3 trillion net negative balance with Mexico, and that translates into lost jobs here at home, and the American people know it.

This import deficit supports millions of jobs abroad, not U.S. workers. It means less money in the wallets of hardworking Americans as consumer dollars feed the greedy of rapacious corporate interests that feed on desperate workers.

Look at NAFTA’s job numbers. Between 1997 and 2010, our country bled over 696,000 manufacturing jobs to Mexico alone. You would recognize the names of the firms. It is an alphabet soup of companies: AlliedSignal, Lucent Technologies, Mr. Coffee, Rockwell Automation, UTC Aerospace Systems, Weyerhaeuser, and so many more.

Unfortunately, the Midwest has suffered the most from this job hemorrhage. For Ohio, the trade deficit with Mexico alone resulted in tens of thousands of lost jobs. Ohio workers have had their net incomes go down by $7,000 per family since NAFTA’s passage. Neighboring Michigan lost over 300,000 jobs since 2000 alone to Mexico.

There is little doubt the original NAFTA agreement failed to create a modern opportunity for America’s workers to win our War.

Today, the Trump administration has a chance to change this. President Trump campaigned and promised to build high-quality jobs and bring them back to the United States. How can a renegotiated NAFTA fail us? It must include the most modern and enforceable continental labor agreements to yield rising standards of living so wages and job training across borders are equalized. If NAFTA were working, more good U.S. jobs could be created, outnumbering job losses.

Mr. Trump promised a good deal for Americans as a candidate. Now he has to deliver on that promise. The old expression, “Don’t tell me what they say, show me what they do,” will be the true test of this administration’s renegotiation of NAFTA.

The President must take bold action in renegotiating NAFTA, and it must resolve in reversing these negative balances and making them positive. He must stand up for America’s workers, for their jobs, not just for global corporate interests, whose shareholders have been making a fortune off the backs of desperate labor.

Making America Great Again was more than a slogan to the people in Ohio and the greater Midwest, looking to shake up what was called the swamp. We need a better deal for America, better jobs, better wages for a better future, and we can start by renegotiating NAFTA.

HONORING HENRY O. LINEBERGER, JR.

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the life of Dr. Henry O. Lineberger, Jr.

Henry was born in Raleigh, North Carolina, on January 5, 1927. He graduated from Broughton High School in 1944, as president of his senior class. From there, he went on to the U.S. Naval Academy, where he served as part of the Medical Corps during World War II.

Mr. Speaker, after the war, Henry enrolled at Duke University, where he met his wife, Betty Rushing. After they were married in 1950, they moved to Chapel Hill, where Henry studied at the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry as part of that dentistry school’s inaugural class.

Following school, Henry and Betty moved to Raleigh in 1954, where he opened his first dental practice.

Mr. Speaker, Henry Lineberger practiced dentistry in Raleigh for more than 50 years, and during that time, he served on numerous dental boards, including the North Carolina Board of Dental Examiners, and he was known by his patients as being available day or night.

Henry was an active member of the Edenton Street United Methodist Church, where he enjoyed teaching Sunday school and gathering for fellowship. In fact, Mr. Speaker, Henry’s Christian faith was the foundation of his life, and he spent a number of years immersed in Bible study.

Henry shared his love for Duke football and basketball with his children and his grandchildren. His grandchildren, by the way, Mr. Speaker, like to call Dr. Lineberger “Pinky.” But despite his best efforts to turn them into Duke fans, they all attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, Henry Lineberger passed away on July 11. He
is remembered by his family as a caring husband, father, and grandfather, and he will be deeply missed by his community that he helped build.

WE CAN PIVOT TOWARDS BIPARTISAN ACTION CONSISTENT WITH THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this is really an amazing time on Capitol Hill. The Republican internal battles and inability to deliver a coherent, effective alternative to fulfill all their contradictory campaign promises on healthcare has done more than just expose their political and policy dysfunction. They are obviously flirting with a serious political backlash.

There is a movement to make the Affordable Care Act, ObamaCare, with all of its shortcomings, popular with the majority of the American public for the first time ever, including so many small business people.

They made the public more aware and concerned about Medicaid, that has expanded and made such a difference in Kentucky, in Oregon, in States all across the country, providing care for people otherwise who had no access to it.

They have managed to accelerate the move towards single payer by more than a decade: Medicare for all, Medicaid for more. I don’t know the exact form, but we are going to be moving in that direction, and the Republicans have helped raise the awareness and accelerate that progress, but I hope that we are going to be able to take steps to make progress sooner.

In the meantime, I suspect that the Affordable Care Act, the core reforms and structure, are going to, in fact, stay in place. This is because there aren’t the votes in the Senate to do anything more; and frankly, it doesn’t look like there are votes to do much in the House, the so-called skinny bill notwithstanding.

But I hope that we can pivot towards modest, bipartisan actions that are consistent with the Affordable Care Act, but don’t depend on it. We have a number of bipartisan initiatives that are truly worthy of being considered.

I have worked for years with Congresswoman DIANE BLACK from Tennessee, on value-based insurance design. This bipartisan legislation would reward value over volume and make insurance much more effective in paying for what we need.

We ought to be able to act on empowering our citizens and their families to know what they are facing at end of life. I have an initiative with my friend and colleague, Congressman ROE from Tennessee, along those lines. Congress ought to accept the challenge from President Trump to deal meaningfully with prescription drug prices. This starts with both sides of the aisle. We can save billions of dollars for Americans and the taxpayers, and we can provide better care.

There are mental health initiatives with our friend Tim MURPHY. Bipartisan progress was made in the last Congress, but there is much more that needs to be done.

In fact, we can work together to overcome the opposition of Chairman Sessions and the Rules Committee denying us the right to vote on extending our veterans access bill to allow consultation about medical marijuana. No one can listen to the heartbreaking stories of veterans and their families about what medical marijuana has done for their chronic pain, traumatic brain injury. It is legal in 29 states, but the Rules Committee denied the right of the House to vote on extending that service to our veterans and their doctors, despite the horrified reaction that that VA has in preventing veteran suicide, and where the opioid addiction rate for the VA is twice the general population.

These are things we can do tomorrow, not dealing with denying millions of people care through the Affordable Care Act and the various permutations that are spinning around now.

Do our job, work together, follow regular order, deal with bipartisan initiatives that will benefit the American people, save the taxpayer money, and improve the health of all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO SARAH MEECE

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sarah Meece, our Nation would operate much more effectively in paying reward value over volume and make in-surance much more effective in paying for what we need.

Sarah has gained so much notoriety in a world that still regrets her. I am forever grateful to have such a great friend and loyal adviser over the last 36 years, Sarah has worked on approximately 150,000 cases, representing an unmatched record of assistance for more than 4,000 individuals each year.

Sarah was elected to Congress in 1989, Sarah Meece was there. When I was the Republican nominee for Lieutenant Governor in 1979, Sarah Meece was there. When I was elected to Congress in 1990, Sarah Meece was there. In fact, she has been with me every day since, even volunteering her personal time for campaign work along the way, ensuring we both could continue serving the public for another 2 years.

During her tenure, Sarah welcomed U.S. Presidents and Vice Presidents to our region, befriended eight Kentucky Governors and their staffs, and assisted hundreds of local leaders across southern and eastern Kentucky as they navigated through Federal issues.

However, it is the people living in the hills and hollers of Kentucky’s Fifth Congressional District who have driven her passion-filled public service. With every call and every personal visit, Sarah offered an encouraging word of hope to our constituents. Very few people can find the silver lining in every cloud like Sarah does, or bring a smile and a laugh to a broken heart. Her comical candor and illustrative storytelling have been a bright spot in everyone’s day.

I am forever grateful to have such a great friend and loyal adviser over these last 4 decades. Sarah’s life’s work has given countless families hope in their darkest hour and comforted them through lengthy and complex Federal issues.

Simply put, Sarah is irreplaceable, both her institutional knowledge of Federal casework and her kind, enduring spirit.

Mr. Speaker, if every congressional office and Federal agency had a Sarah Meece, our Nation would operate much
Germany’s vital oil supplies in România. The 15th Air Force launched nearly 20,000 sorties into Eastern Europe to degrade Hitler’s war machine. To do this, they had to fly over Nazi-occupied Yugoslavia. As many as 1,500 pilots and airmen went down during these dangerous flights.

Serbians who had been resisting German forces since 1941 risked their own lives to rescue American aircrrews and hide them from patrolling Nazis. One of them was Serbian George Dudich, the father of five, the chief of staff when I was a judge in Texas. For months, George Dudich and the other Serbians aided downed Americans, caring for and protecting the pilots, and then smuggling the aircrrews back to Allied lines.

By August 1944, hundreds of other downed aircrrews were being sheltered by the Serbian guerillas. The OSS, the predecessor to the CIA, devised a plan to evacuate the Allied pilots in a daring mission codenamed with the Serbian resistance.

On August 10, unarmed American C-47s flew numerous sorties deep into enemy territory and landed at an improvised airfield built and protected by local Serbians near the village of Pranaji. By the 18th, more than 500 Allied airmen had been secretly rescued and flown back to Italy.

Here on this poster you see the Serbian resistance, along with American aircrrews that had been downed, moving them to hiding from the Nazis that were patrolling the areas. For over 60 years, this bold, unbelievable secret operation was kept classified.

Our alliance with Serbia and the Serbian people goes back even further to the First World War. One hundred years ago, Serbia stood up to the aggression from the larger Austrian-Hungarian empire. We should admire such defiance against overwhelming odds. In Serbia’s long history, they also set events in motion that would lead the U.S. to take up the cause of freedom in Europe in World War I. That common devotion to liberty and the spirit of the Halyard mission still lives today with the close ties between the United States and Serbia.

As was the case in both World Wars, Serbia and the United States still face shared threats. We work together now to preserve each others’ security. Serbia stands alongside U.S. military forces in fighting terrorism in Afghanist, and Serbia is a partner in keeping terrorism from spreading in Serbia and in Europe.

However, Russian propaganda efforts in the country are particularly strong and anti-Western. We must be vigilant to thwart the Kremlin’s efforts to poison our relationship with Serbia.

Fortunately, Serbia’s integration into the West has continued to move in spite of Russian diaspora pressure. In 2006, Serbia joined NATO’s Partnership for Peace and, in 2015, signed an Individual Partnership Action Plan with the alliance to strengthen cooperation.

Serbia has no stronger supporter for increased integration with the EuroAtlantic community than the United States. So for more than 100 years, we have been friends with the Serbian people. And as co-chair of the Serbian Caucus, along with the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. CLEAVES), I want to welcome Serbian Ambassador Matkovic and his staff to the House Chamber today.

With our shared events in Operation Halyard, our combined history, and our friends in freedom, the American people are forever grateful for those Serbs who came to America’s rescue during those bleak days of World War II.

And that is just the way it is.

HONORING THE STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN AMERICA

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1927, which is on the floor this afternoon, the African American Civil Rights Network Act. This is to honor the sad, yet heroic struggle for civil rights in America, a struggle for those who participated in the civil rights movements, a struggle for people that were, in fact, soldiers in a war for justice and democracy.

We appropriately and regularly honor the millions who wore uniforms and went to Europe and Asia to defend our country, and we appropriately and properly give them benefits that they deserve for what they did to protect democracy and justice.

But what we forget is those citizens in America who had to fight their own government and their own country for those same rights of justice and democracy.

Enslaved for over 250 years, and then treated in a netherworld of segregation for 100 years, and then slowly creeping in after Brown v. Board of Education in 1954 and the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act of the sixties and to this day, those who fought for civil rights deserve to be recognized as soldiers for justice and democracy, and this bill will honor their work with the Civil Rights Network Act in our country.

They used protests to gain public attention and, eventually, to spur judicial and legislative action. We have all the way back to W.E.B. DuBois and others who fought when they weren’t so popular and on television.

H.R. 1927 would establish a Civil Rights Network to commemorate and honor the history of the civil rights movement. And I want to encourage that the proposed sites include the Memphis Heritage Trail, which has applied for funding as part of that historical network.

But in Memphis, unfortunately, in April of 1968, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was slain. Dr. King gave his last speech in Memphis the night before at the Mason Temple, the "I Have..."
American citizens on American soil. These are alarming developments and the United States must act aggressively to strengthen our own missile defense and immediately restrict North Korea’s access to cash. Murderous, tyrannical regimes have no place in the world, and I am confident that these bills will hold corrupt dictators accountable and advance justice for some of the world’s most repressed populations.

AN IMPRESSIVE MILESTONE

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the Elk River Municipal Utilities Commission’s recent 70th anniversary.

The Elk River Municipal Utilities Commission was created or established in 1915 when a group of citizens started Elk River Power and Light. The business was eventually purchased by the village of Elk River and operated by the city council. Later on, when their responsibilities expanded to include water, the council created the Elk River Municipal Utilities Commission.

Throughout the years, this organization has not only seen their responsibilities expand, but their jurisdiction expand as well. In fact, today, the Commission covers Otsego, Ramsey, and Washington counties, and its responsibilities have expanded to include water, the council created the Elk River Municipal Utilities Commission.

Thank you to everyone that makes the Elk River Municipal Utilities work, and congratulations on 70 years of great service to our communities.

AN INCREDIBLE ANNIVERSARY

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 160th anniversary of the Anoka-Champlin Fire Department. Since 1856, this fire department has been dedicated to protecting lives and property in our communities. To give a little perspective on the history of the organization, the Anoka-Champlin Fire Department has been serving the great State of Minnesota since it was still a territory and before the Civil War.

Due to their hard work and often life-saving efforts, Anoka and Champlin have been allowed to grow into thriving communities. I want to thank the cities of Anoka and Champlin for continuing to support this important organization. Thank you for your service and commitment to our communities and their citizens.

Congratulations on your anniversary and upcoming celebration. It is well deserved.

TWO LIVES HONORED FOR SAVING ANOTHER

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two men from my State whose quick thinking saved the life of another earlier this year.

Dr. Bob Schwegler and Dr. Tom Cress were both golfing with Steve Blattner at the Albany Golf Course when Steve began to suffer a cardiac event. Instead of panicking, both doctors successfully performed lifesaving measures on Steve, and with the assistance of the Albany Fire Department, their efforts were successful in saving Steve’s life.

As a result of their heroic actions, Dr. Schwegler and Dr. Cress were recently presented with lifesaving awards by Stearns County Sheriff Don Gudmundson and Lieutenant Christianson and at the Stearns County Board of Commissioners meeting.

Thank you, Bob Schwegler, Tom Cress, and the Albany Fire Department, for your heroic actions. We appreciate your service.

A PERFECT SCORE

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a student in my district for an incredible academic achievement. Tyler Wilson of Andover, Minnesota, received a perfect score on his ACT this year, no doubt, a valuable candidate for most colleges and universities across this country.

We wish Tyler the best of luck on his senior year in high school, and we are excited to see what this scholar will accomplish in the future.

Congratulations again, Tyler. We are all so proud of you.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL COUNCIL ON INDEPENDENT LIVING ON 35 YEARS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Council on Independent Living for celebrating its 35th anniversary this year. Their persistent advocacy has had a tremendous impact on the disability community and has not gone unnoticed. Mr. Speaker, as you may know, before I was elected to serve in Congress, I worked for many years as a therapist, a rehab services manager, and worked in the community with individuals living with intellectual disabilities and as a licensed nursing home administrator.

Working with individuals facing life-changing diseases and disabilities has been one of the greatest joys of my life, after my wife and children and two grandchildren. There is something extraordinary about supporting an individual as they set out on challenging journeys toward rehabilitation and autonomy.
My passion for improving the quality of care for my patients and helping them achieve independence is what brought me here to Congress.

Last year, I was proud to turn my experience into advocacy by guiding the Special Needs Trust Fairness Act through the legislative process. This commonsense bill empowered those living with disabilities to set up their own special needs trusts, an action which was barred by previous law. After receiving overwhelming bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, language from the bill was included in the 21st Century Cures Act, which was signed into law on December 13, 2016.

Mr. Speaker, safeguarding the rights of Americans living with disabilities is a cause I am honored to fight for, and I look forward to continuing my efforts.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. HOWARD KIRTLAND

Dr. Kirtland was born in Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a member of the medical community whom we recently lost.

Today, I honor the life and memory of Dr. Howard Kirtland, who passed away after several years of selfless service to his community and employees through his practice, Venango Hematology and Oncology, as well as the Kirtland Cancer Foundation.

Dr. Kirtland was well-known for his kindness and generosity throughout the community. Those closest to him will be deeply impacted by the loss of a man who was loved for his mentorship, selflessness, and incredible work ethic.

Mr. Speaker, safeguarded the Kirtland Cancer Foundation with his personal resources to financially assist cancer patients and their families, as well as providing scholarship money to students affected by the disease.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw much-needed attention to our Nation’s rental affordability crisis, from rural America to the suburbs, to the big cities, this problem grows in severity each day, limiting Americans’ abilities to provide quality food, medical care, and safety for their families.

My home State of Florida has been particularly hard-hit, ranking third among States with the greatest number of severely cost-burdened renters. In my district, the Florida Keys constitute one of the most severely cost-burdened areas. Recognizing the harsh realities facing many of our seniors, I urge my colleagues to join me in calling for its consideration and passage in the House.

BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, as an FBI agent, my job was to keep the American people safe from all enemies, both foreign and domestic.

On the national security front, those components include a sound counter-terrorism strategy, a sound counter-intelligence strategy, a sound cybersecurity strategy, a sound foreign policy, and a sound border security strategy.

Before us today, Mr. Speaker, is the issue of border security, an issue that, quite frankly, has been largely ignored over the past several decades by both parties. As a result, our national security remains compromised at a point in time where we live in a more dangerous world now than we ever have.

Mr. Speaker, the concept of border security is a national security emergency that requires action on all fronts, not just one or two, and I urge my friends and colleagues on both sides of the aisle: Please do not politicize this issue.

Securing operational control of our border is a national security emergency. My former law enforcement colleagues who are putting their life on the line every day while protecting our borders are asking for our help. Let us not let them down.

THE TAYLOR FORCE ACT

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

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1164, the Taylor Force Act. This legislation conditions financial assistance from the United States on the Palestinian Authority’s termination of support for terror committed by individuals under its jurisdictional control. In order for the Palestinian Authority to receive aid, it would also be required to condemn acts of terror and cease providing grants, payments, or other benefits to those who have committed such acts.

The bill is named after Taylor Force, a former U.S. Army officer who was stabbed to death during a terrorist attack in Tel Aviv.

This legislation is a commonsense solution that we must address. The Palestinian Authority, under the leadership of Mahmoud Abbas, has continued to support efforts that undermine attempts at peace between the Palestinians and our great ally Israel.

The blatant encouragement of terrorist activity by the Palestinian Authority must end. Why should we be rewarding this kind of behavior?

The Palestinian Authority perpetuates terrorism by paying salaries to terrorists who are in prison. To make matters worse, those salaries increase the longer they are in jail, thus encouraging these terrorists to commit more violent acts.

This is unacceptable. The United States must do something to end this conduct because the reality is it is costing innocent lives. I believe the goals of H.R. 1164, the Taylor Force Act, are a step in the right direction, and I urge my colleagues to join me in calling for its consideration and passage in the House.

LOW INCOME HOUSING

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw much-needed attention to our Nation’s rental affordability crisis, from rural America to the suburbs, to the big cities, this problem grows in severity each day, limiting Americans’ abilities to provide quality food, medical care, and safety for their families.

My home State of Florida has been particularly hard-hit, ranking third among States with the greatest number of severely cost-burdened renters. In my district, the Florida Keys continue to face an affordable housing crisis that has made it difficult for the workers and entrepreneurs of its ever-growing economy.

That is why, earlier this year, I attended the opening of the first-ever affordable housing project for low-income seniors outside of Key West. I have also been working to ensure Naval Air Station Key West, which currently has 166 units on base that have sat vacant for several years, is put to better use. While the process is slow, I am grateful for the Navy’s assistance as we work to explore the possibility of opening these units for more affordable housing in the Keys.
Mr. Speaker, finding solutions to making housing more affordable for our constituents, especially the most vulnerable, is a priority of mine here in Congress. I am proud to stand with Mr. Tiberi of Ohio and over 70 bipartisan Members to support his efforts to reform and strengthen low-income housing tax credits. It is time for Congress to work towards responsible solutions and make the rental affordability crisis a priority.

PASSAGE OF SANCTIONS PACKAGE

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the passage of sanctions against the Iranian, Russian, and North Korean regimes. This package of sanctions sends a strong message to these regimes that the United States will not tolerate their rogue actions.

These sanctions will hold accountable those involved in the Iranian regime’s ballistic missile program, those who attempt to destabilize the region and threaten Israel, as well as those responsible for ongoing human rights abuses. The legislation also sets us on a path to deter conventional Iranian activities in the region and imposes sanctions on any individual that contributes to Iran’s ballistic missiles or to terrorism.

The sanctions against North Korea will respond to its increasingly hostile threats against the United States and our allies in Asia. By increasing the President’s authority to impose sanctions on Russian and North Korean activities, we are ensuring action can be taken swiftly when necessary.

Last, but certainly not least, we have strengthened sanctions against Russia in response to cyber attacks and interference in Ukraine. Specifically, we are increasing sanctions on human rights abusers, those who supply weapons to the Assad regime in Syria, and those condoning or committing atrocities on behalf of the Russian Government.

Given the seriousness of Russia’s aggression, we are strengthening the existing sanctions contained in executive orders on Russia and mandating a congressional review if any sanctions are relaxed, suspended, or terminated. I strongly encourage the President to sign this bill into law and will continue to impress upon all of my colleagues the need to not treat Russia lightly.

These threats posed to our national security by Iran, Russia, and North Korea cannot be understated. With passage of this sanctions package, Congress is doing its job to ensure they will be held accountable.

SALUTING THE FIREFIGHTERS AND AGENCIES OF CAL FIRE

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

Mr. McClintock. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by saluting the more than 5,000 firefighters from 40 cooperating agencies that assembled under the coordination of CAL FIRE to battle the Detwiler fire that threatened Yosemite Valley and its gateway communities.

I spent Saturday at the command centers in Mariposa and Merced Counties, and what I said is what I have seen and time and again at so many fires we are having these days in the Sierras: cool, calm professionalism; selflessness; and devotion to duty.

CAL FIRE is an agency that works. I want particularly to salute and thank Nancy Koerperich, CAL FIRE’s unit fire chief for Madera, Merced, and Mariposa. She and her operation literally saved several towns, including Mariposa and Coulterville, from annihilation last week.

Sheriff Doug Binnewies of Mariposa County is rightly being hailed for his courage and leadership in directing the orderly evacuation of the town of Mariposa as the fire bore down upon it. You can literally see how the fire burned right up to the town’s edge. I can’t tell you how many homes I saw where firefighters stopped it literally within a few feet of their front doors.

CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Jeremy Rahn told me that the difference between saving and losing so many homes was defensible space.

CAL FIRE has produced a superb phone app to assist homeowners in preparing their property so that if God forbid, the need arises, firefighters will be able to defend them. It also provides fire alerts, and anyone in the mountain community should have it. It is free for downloading at your phone’s app store.

The heroic firefighters of the Detwiler fire have kept it out of these hazard zones, but the hazard zones are still there. And consider this: we are only at the very beginning of the fire season that combines fresh brush from last year’s rains with millions of dead trees that were too stressed from overcrowding to survive the drought. The firefighters I spoke with on Saturday bitterly complained that they can’t even cut firebreaks to isolate these zones because of the same so-called environmental laws.

The House has pending before it the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017 that would allow us to restore good forest management, but we may already have run afoul of what Churchill called history’s “terrible, chilling words: too late.”

Mr. Speaker, I call for expeditious consideration of the Resilient Federal Forests Act and other legislation aimed at restoring management to our forests in the hope that firefighters can hold these fires at bay until we restore good management to our public lands.

RECESS

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

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

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Reverend William D. Johnson, Jr., Harbour Lake Baptist Church, Goose Creek, South Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for the day that You have bestowed upon us. May our actions glorify You
in all that we do. We humbly request that You, Lord, place Your providential hand of protection upon every Member, their families, and those who guard and protect this Chamber.

O gracious God, remind us daily that while we are here to represent the people, our authority comes from You, for there is no authority except from God, and those who exist are established by God.

May there be renewal of prayer across the United States. God, place a burden upon us that we may seek You before we undertake any endeavor.

God bless the House of Representatives, and God bless these United States of America.

I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

OUR CHILDREN ARE NOT FOR SALE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, sitting a mere 20 feet away from the man that raped and trafficked her daughter, Jennifer waited anxiously in the courtroom as the judge prepared to announce the sentence.

The amount of pain and turmoil this criminal inflicted on her family could never be undone.

A few years ago, this man pulled up alongside Jennifer’s daughter as she walked down the street. He lured the 15-year-old into his car, and he sexually assaulted her. He then took her to a motel and began forcing her to have sex with numerous men for money. He posted an ad about her online offering buyers a chance to “play with innocence.” He literally stole her youth, her happiness, and he sold her to the highest bidder.

When Jennifer finally heard the judge’s sentence, she wept with tears of joy—180 years in prison for the trafficker, from the right-thinking judge. Let the word get out to deviants and traffickers and buyers: Our children are not for sale. There is a price to pay for the trafficker who sells our kids. And that is just the way it is.

TOXIC ALGAL BLOOMS

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, according to the national environmental officials, for the first time this year, toxic algal blooms have formed on the shores of Lake Erie.

This toxic accumulation of algae represents a direct threat to the people of western New York, but they also threaten the surrounding Great Lakes communities, representing 20 percent of the world’s freshwater drinking supply.

This past year, toxic blooms have been so extreme that they have infiltrated clean drinking water sources, turning once clean waters into toxic swamps. These hazardous blooms threaten the local economy, which is dependent on fishing, recreation, and tourism. Furthermore, they represent a critical danger to wildlife present on Lake Erie.

At a time when the House is considering defunding environmental efforts, I would remind my colleagues of the tremendous progress that we have made to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to clean up our Nation’s lakes and rivers. This is no time to turn back.

HONORING EDNA BERNICE HARVEY TURMAN

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Edna Bernice Harvey Turman, who is celebrating her 100th birthday on August 15 of this year.

Edna was born in 1917 and grew up in a rural homestead in Newton County, where she helped her mother and father, Bill and Molly Harvey, raise cattle together.

She began working at Harvey’s grocery store, and afterwards she met a man named Raymond Turman. The pair married in 1936 and farmed and raised cattle together.

During World War II, Edna and Raymond farmed for the government and sold soybeans, cotton, creamed milk, and formed butter.

Edna and Raymond had five children: Mary, Barbara, Billy Ray, Garry, and Ronnie. Edna also has 9 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and 8 great-great-grandchildren.

An active member of her community and county, Edna is very passionate about her church, was a member of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and even helped run the voting location in south Craighead County for several years.

Today, besides being a happy grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother, Edna still lives on the farm. She works and works in her yard. Edna truly is a member of the greatest generation of Americans by which all the following generations are measured, and whether we realize it or not, it was people like Edna who built our communities and continue to shape the America we live in today. I hope you will join me in wishing her a happy 100th birthday.

JCPOA NEGOTIATIONS

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, “irresponsible, reckless, duplicitive,” all words used to describe Iran during the JCPOA negotiations.

Soon, if this administration abrogates the JCPOA, those words would apply to us: “irresponsible for shedding an agreement that makes the world a safer place, “reckless” in giving Iran an excuse to immediately re-start the nuclear program, and “duplicitive” in breaking an international agreement for no legitimate reason but to fulfill a campaign promise.

Make no mistake, Iran is still a bad actor. It destabilizes the region. It funds terrorist activities. That is why we voted to increase nonnuclear sanctions on Iran yesterday. But the Iran nuclear agreement is being adhered to, and it is working.

Under this administration, are we, as a nation, no longer as good as our word?

HONORING THE LIFE OF CURRY TOMMY HAYNES

(Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Curry Tommy Haynes, a longtime Georgia resident and brave hero of the Vietnam war, who joined our Heavenly Father on July 16 after a long battle with cancer.

Mr. Haynes was one of the most decorated soldiers in our Nation’s history, earning 10 Purple Heart awards for his bravery in combat in the jungles of Vietnam. Mr. Haynes remained an active member of the community after returning from duty by launching the Newton County EMT services, teaching locals to fly and skydive, and serving as a VA counselor to his fellow service members.

Mr. Speaker, while serving in Vietnam as part of the U.S. Army 173rd Airborne Brigade, Company C of the 503rd Infantry, Mr. Haynes was wounded
multiple times. He was shot in the arm, the thighs, the hand; he lost two fingers in one enemy ambush alone. Yet despite the multiple injuries, he never quit fighting.

In 2015, he was presented with a special letter of proclamation issued by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal during a special ceremony recognizing his sacrifice.

When asked how he survived combat with his numerous injuries, Mr. Haynes simply replied: I don’t believe in luck. I owe it all to Jesus Christ.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please stand with me and join me in a moment of silence to honor the life and legacy of this American hero who deserves the respect of all Americans.

BORDER WALL FUNDING

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

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, the inclusion of $1.6 billion to fund an ineffective divisive border wall is a direct attack on immigrant communities across our Nation. Funding this immoral wall does nothing to help our country. It only helps to promote President Trump’s campaign of fear.

The wall itself mirrors President Trump’s approach to policy: divisive, ineffective, and motivated by hate.

This is exemplified by the Trump administration’s reckless disregard of the humanitarian cost of building a border wall, which will force immigrants and asylum seekers to take greater risks and more dangerous routes that will likely result in more deaths. Furthermore, this wall will literally divide immigrant households and tear families apart.

Instead of funding ineffective efforts to protect our homeland from dangerous threats, this administration would rather fulfill a campaign promise that does the exact opposite. It makes our nation safe by targeting immigrant communities and closing off America from our neighbors.

American taxpayers should not be forced to foot the bill for President Trump’s xenophobic anti-immigrant agenda.

AUGUST 21 TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

(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, on August 21, a total solar eclipse will stretch from coast to coast in the United States for the first time in 99 years, and I am proud to say that my district in southern Illinois is the prime viewing spot.

In fact, my home county of Jackson County near Carbondale, and also my front yard, is where the eclipse will be at its apex.

For 2 minutes and 38 seconds, it will be like total darkness in the middle of the day. The city’s population of 26,000 is expected to multiply many times over from visitors around the world coming for tourism and to see this astronomical Super Bowl.

So I would encourage my colleagues and the American people to visit for some world championship southern Illinois barbecue, the beautiful outdoors, the wonderful wineries, and welcome one and all people for the best viewing moments of this solar eclipse.

WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE ACA

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, while the Senate is moving forward this week on their deeply flawed and really unpopular healthcare bill, millions of Americans know that they will lose healthcare under TrumpCare. They will face skyrocketing costs, premiums will go up, prescription drug prices will go up.

Republicans need to drop this obsession with repeal and work with Democrats to fix the problems that we know exist in the Affordable Care Act. No law is perfect. At least no law has ever been written here is perfect.

And the American people, at least the folks I talk to back home, they are exhausted. They are sick of this partisan. We have the ideas that you might like. You have some ideas that maybe we could accept. We ought to get together and figure out a way to make healthcare work for every American and not obsess about the notion that anything signed by the previous President, by definition, is bad law.

Let us do what the American people sent us here to do.

RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT COMMANDER MIGUEL SANTISTEBAN

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because it is long past time that the American people got a better deal.

All Americans want the same thing: a fair chance to get ahead and a better deal than the raw deal that many have right now.

Granite Staters in my district want to have the skills to get ahead in the 21st century economy. We want better pay and better jobs. Many women, and increasingly more men, are what we know as the “sandwich” generation, caring for young children and aging parents and relatives, often at the same time.

That is why we need paid family leave and sick leave. We need to expand our educational system and skills training for all types of opportunities.

Just this week, the Girl Scouts of America announced 23 new merit badges in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This is symbolic of what we need to do as a nation.

Encourage young people, boys and girls, to pursue their interests in the fields that will be the cornerstone of the 21st century economy.

America deserves a better deal, and that is what we are offering.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, last year over 70,000 cases of human trafficking were reported in the United States. Unfortunately, the city with the largest number of cases was our hometown of Houston, Texas.

Human trafficking is an absolutely despicable and deplorable crime that demands swift action.

As chairman of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, I have spearheaded efforts to make sure that our Federal law enforcement officers have all the resources they need to crack down on these human traffickers, who are exploiting our children and young women coming across our borders.
We have to work together to provide justice and relief for these victims. That is why Congress has passed 16 bipartisan bills to combat this human trafficking epidemic.

These bills ensure that all law enforcement at the State, Federal, and local level have the resources they need and the support they need to fight this overwhelming crisis.

I am proud to support these measures, and I will continue to work with my colleagues to ensure that we crack down and stop the hammer on human traffickers.

FUNDING TO BUILD A BORDER WALL

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the proposed border wall funding.

Instead of wasting $1.6 billion in taxpayer's dollars on an unnecessary border wall, the DHS should focus its limited resources on more important border security priorities.

This includes upgrading and hiring more personnel for ports of entry, the main path for illegal drugs. This could include better and more technology so that border security agents will have a better idea what is happening along the borders.

The border wall will be dangerous. Violence, poverty, and family ties ensure that migrants will continue attempting the risky journey through the border region's hostile zones.

The border wall will be divisive. We need to do our job, Mr. Speaker, and come together as a Congress for a comprehensive immigration plan; at the least, reform of our immigration policies. Building a wall sends a toxic message to one of our closest neighbors, a country to which we owe a debt.

A BETTER DEAL

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, Democrats unveiled A Better Deal for the American people. This is an economic agenda that will create 10 million good-paying, full-time jobs; raise pay; lower costs; and give workers the tools that they need to get ahead.

A job is much more than just a paycheck. It is about knowing that your hard work is valued and honored. It is about being treated with the dignity and respect that every human being deserves. We don't have enough of that in this country today.

People in my State and all across America feel like the system is broken. America feel like the system is broken. The system is broken.

Our Tax Code rewards companies that ship jobs overseas. Millionaires and billionaires don't pay their fair share. Corporate special interests spend secretly in our elections. It doesn't have to be this way; and with A Better Deal, it won't be this way.

We are going to invest in our infrastructure, we are going to build a new manufacturing economy, double investments in apprenticeships, and we are going to make sure that working families are valued again.

The American people have had enough broken promises to last them a lifetime, but Democrats are going to deliver real results to them with A Better Deal, better jobs, better wages, for a better future.

CONGRATULATING JACK AND MARIANNE COX

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

Mr. McCINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of Mrs. Louise Johnson, this year's recipient of the Friends of the Fair Award from the Clinton County Fair Association.

Mrs. Johnson has dedicated herself to the people and organizations of Clinton County for many years, particularly the Clinton County Fair.

She served as chair of the Hershey Baking Contest for 22 years, as co-chair for Open Show for 19 years, and created the Sizzling Senior Talent Show in 1989.

Beyond her involvement at the fair, Mrs. Johnson has served as the Junior Vice-President of the Monument Church of Christ for more than six decades, teaching Sunday school, playing the piano, and serving as treasurer.

RECOGNIZING LOUISE JOHNSON

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

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Louise Johnson, Jr. In fact, I first met him in that capacity when I was still in high school. I have done quite a bit of aging since then. Jack and Marianne have not, which I find annoying, but there it is.

Jack was the quintessential congressional chief of staff. He was always one step behind Barry, whispering names in his ear as he went from handshake to handshake.

Jack was also one of the moving forces behind the creation of the Republican Study Committee.

Somehow he also found time to marry and raise a family in those years. And, even more surprisingly, Marianne put up with him.

Jack and Marianne have sort of retired to the town of Copperopolis, and I extend to them heartfelt congratulations on the celebration of this family milestone.

THE RIGHT TO HEALTHCARE

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, even as our colleagues in the Senate try, once again, today to strip lifesaving healthcare away from millions of Americans, I find that there is reason to hope and to have faith not in this Congress, where the work of cruel indifference to suffering precedes once again, but, rather, in the American people, because it has been the efforts of ordinary citizens whose calls and letters and protests have been making all the difference in this issue. It has been the collective voices of people telling their stories of struggle and survival who have slowed the system roller of repeal.

I salute each and every one of them. Your voices count. Your stories are important. Keep them coming because you, your health, and your healthcare matter.

RECOGNIZING HUCK PLYLER

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a young man whose thoughtfulness and generosity has stirred the hearts, souls, and patriotic spirit of people across my district in Arkansas.

Earlier this year, 6-year-old Huck Plyler from Hope, Arkansas, started the Care Package Project. Huck's project has provided nonperishable snacks, lip balm, sunscreen, personal hygiene products, socks, and more.

When asked why he decided to start this project, Huck's answer was: "We do this because they help us, so we help them."

Though simple, this reply is wise beyond his years.

Huck's dedication to this project has enabled him to collect enough donated items and monetary donations to send over 50 boxes to our troops thus far.

Mr. Speaker, Huck's kindness and thoughtfulness brings honor to himself; his parents, Caleb and Brianna Plyler; and to the benevolent people of Hempstead County and Arkansas.

I commend and thank Huck for his hard work and commitment to our military members serving overseas. It is young men and women like Huck that give me hope for the future, hope that the giving and caring spirit is still alive and well in our young people and country today.

CONGRATULATING JACK AND MARIANNE COX

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

Mr. McCINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a young man whose thoughtfulness and generosity has stirred the hearts, souls, and patriotic spirit of people across my district in Arkansas.

Earlier this year, 6-year-old Huck Plyler from Hope, Arkansas, started the Care Package Project. Huck's project is comprised of putting together care packages for nearly 700 members of the Arkansas National Guard currently deployed to the Horn of Africa.

Huck's care packages include items such as nonperishable snacks, lip balm, sunscreen, personal hygiene products, socks, and more.

When asked why he decided to start this project, Huck's answer was: "We do this because they help us, so we help them."

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I commend and thank Huck for his hard work and commitment to our military members serving overseas. It is young men and women like Huck that give me hope for the future, hope that the giving and caring spirit is still alive and well in our young people and country today.

A BETTER DEAL

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, Democrats unveiled A Better Deal for the American people. This is an economic agenda that will create 10 million good-paying, full-time jobs; raise pay; lower costs; and give workers the tools that they need to get ahead.

A job is much more than just a paycheck. It is about knowing that your hard work is valued and honored. It is about being treated with the dignity and respect that every human being deserves. We don't have enough of that in this country today.

People in my State and all across America feel like the system is completely stacked against them. And do you know what? They are right.

Our Tax Code rewards companies that ship jobs overseas. Millionaires and billionaires don't pay their fair share. Corporate special interests spend secretly in our elections. It doesn't have to be this way; and with A Better Deal, it won't be this way.

We are going to invest in our infrastructure, we are going to build a new manufacturing economy, double investments in apprenticeships, and we are going to make sure that working families are valued again.

The American people have had enough broken promises to last them a lifetime, but Democrats are going to deliver real results to them with A Better Deal, better jobs, better wages, for a better future.
She has further enriched the community by teaching crochet classes, serving residents at Haven Skilled Rehabilitation and Nursing, and assisting at Lock Haven Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, the time and dedication Mrs. Johnson has given to her community is truly inspiring. I am so proud to congratulate her on this well-deserved award.

I congratulate Mrs. Johnson, and I thank her for all that she has given in services to the communities of both Centre and Clinton Counties.

BORDER SECURITY

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

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, after more than 6 months of failing to pass any major legislative bills, House Republicans are becoming desperate for a win. So desperate, they decided to sneak in $1.6 billion into a funding bill to start construction on an unworkable wall along the Southern border. While I support real border security, this stunt is a far cry from that.

I believe in investing our Federal dollars wisely. Instead of building a medieval solution that will not work, why don’t we use those billions of dollars for a big, beautiful jobs package? Or big, beautiful bridges, roads, and infrastructure throughout this country? Or to ensure that our children can access higher education and job training, healthcare, and housing?

Instead, my Republican colleagues are attempting to distract us from their failures by passing this bill. You would think that with their back against a wall, they wouldn’t be this eager to start building another one.

CONGRATULATING THE SERGEANT ANDREW BRUCHER VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 5499

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

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Sergeant Andrew Brucher Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5499, located in Kauneonga Lake, New York, which will soon be celebrating its 50th anniversary.

At the anniversary dinner, the post will honor two very special people: Mrs. Mabel Brucher, a Gold Star mother whose son Post 5499 is named for; and Mr. Raymond Jankowski, a veteran of the Second World War and founder and charter member of Post 5499.

Honoring those who have served our Nation should be a top priority for all Americans, and the VFW is an essential organization that fosters camaraderie among American veterans and advocates on their behalf.

Congratulations to Post 5499. I look forward to honoring this important milestone with members of the post this weekend.

BORDER WALL

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to oppose the inclusion of $1.6 billion that would be a waste of taxpayer money on this useless wall. The funds will go towards an unnecessary wall along the Southern border. This wall that the President promised voters that Mexico would pay for is now being put on the taxpayers’ backs.

$1.6 billion can be used for better things. It can pay for thousands of jobs in the U.S. and workforce development programs and apprenticeships.

And one other thing: agents protecting our border don’t even want it. They do not see themselves as defenders of a wall.

Mr. President, please come back to reality. This is not “Game of Thrones.”

This administration needs to stop demonizing people outside of our borders. We need to fix our immigration system, and we can do it in a humane and pragmatic and effective way, and in a way that will supercharge our economy and actually create American jobs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to the President.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRIAN BERG

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

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, as the House co-chair of the bipartisan Paper and Packaging Caucus, I rise today to recognize an individual from my district who has dedicated his entire professional life to an industry that is the lifeblood of a rural community in my State, Toledo, Oregon. I am talking about Brian Berg, who, after 41 years with Georgia-Pacific, will be retiring Friday.

For 50 years, GP has been an integral part of Lincoln County and a community partner, providing paper and packaging products that are used around the world.

For over 41 years, Brian has been a leader at GP in helping ensure that the mill continues to thrive and be successful and provide for this community now and into the future.

I want to thank Brian for his dedication, his service, and his commitment to an industry that has been critical to my district and many of my constituents. I wish you all the best and hope you get to enjoy some time with your lovely wife, Janet, and kids, Savannah, Ashley, and Riley.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3219, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 473 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 473
Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, and for other purposes, the first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed two hours equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115-30 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. Points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived.

S. C. 2. (a) No further amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Appropriations accompanying this resolution, amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution, and pro forma amendments described in section 4 of this resolution.

(b) Each further amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules shall be
considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before action thereon, shall not be subject to demand for division of the question, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(c) All points of order against further amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules or against amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment except by section 4 of this section, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

SEC. 5. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment pursuant to this resolution the chair of the Committee of the Whole shall move without motion. No further consideration of the bill shall be in order except pursuant to a subsequent order of the House.

SEC. 6. (a) During consideration of H.R. 3219, it shall not be in order to consider an amendment proposing both a decrease in an appropriation designated pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and an increase in an appropriation not so designated, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

SEC. 8. (a) During consideration of H.R. 3219, the bipartisan Lee provision requiring Congress to debate the reauthorization of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017, and an increase of $28.3 billion over the President’s request. It also includes $73.9 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations and Global War on Terrorism funding. These funds will help us enhance our military readiness, and the substantial increase marks an end to the ongoing erosion of our national military strength that occurred during the Obama administration.

Importantly, this bill also provides an increase of $68.1 billion in discretionary funding above the 2017 levels, and an increase of $23.3 billion over the President’s request. It also includes $73.9 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations and Global War on Terrorism funding. These funds will help us enhance our military readiness, and the substantial increase marks an end to the ongoing erosion of our national military strength that occurred during the Obama administration.

The Department of Veterans Affairs will receive a 5 percent increase in this bill, including $74 billion for the Veterans Health Administration.

The increased funding represents an important step toward fulfilling our promise to our veterans to reduce wait times at the VA, and enhance benefits for our Nation’s veterans.

The Energy and Water portion of this appropriations bill provides $37.6 billion in funding for fiscal year 2018, a decrease of $200 million from fiscal year 2017.

The bill includes an increase in funding for the National Nuclear Security Administration that includes funds to restart the licensing process for Yucca Mountain, the national disposal repository for spent nuclear fuel. It also provides $6.16 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers, a $10 million increase over fiscal year 2017.

H.R. 3219 also provides $3.58 billion for the Legislative Branch. It does not recommend funding levels for the Senate, as per our longstanding tradition.

The bill includes a significant increase in funding for U.S. Capitol Police and adds additional funds for securing offices in Washington and in congressional districts. Importantly, it continues the freeze on Member pay.

The package before us represents the House fulfilling its primary responsibility: to fund the government. This package funds hundreds, if not thousands, of Member priorities, particularly on the defense side.

I applaud my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee for their months of work on making this bill a reality. It shows what the House can do as we move forward toward completion of the fiscal year appropriations process.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the rule and the underlying legislation.

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

Mr. McGovern. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Oklahoma. Mr. Cole for yielding the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. McGovern asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McGovern. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to know where to begin, because this process is so lousy, but I want to raise today in opposition to this rule and the so-called underlying bill, H.R. 3219, the GOP fiscal year 2018 so-called security minibus appropriations bill.

This rule makes in order 72 amendments for debate on the House floor, blocking 100 amendments. It continues the terrible closed process that the Republican majority has used since they took control of the House in 2011.

When Speaker Ryan took the gavel, he promised a fair and open process with regular order where both the majority and the minority would have the opportunity to have their voices heard, and I am happy to provide the full text of that speech to my Republican friends.

I guess we were misinformed, because our collective voices are repeatedly silenced in this Chamber, not just Democrats, but Republicans as well.

Speaker Ryan’s broken promise was clearly on display last week when he took the gavel until the defund strip out of the Defense Appropriations bill a provision requiring Congress to debate the issue of the 2001 AUMF. That provision was adopted by the full House Appropriations Committee on a bipartisan basis as an amendment offered by our respected colleague, Representative Barbara Lee. The bipartisan Lee amendment would sunset the outdated 2001 AUMF and give Congress 8 months to enact a new one, ensuring that Congress finally debate and vote on the many wars in which the United States is engaged.

If the Republican leadership doesn’t like the lead provision, then the Rules Committee could have made in order an amendment to strike it from the bill. That would have given Members the chance to vote up or down either to keep or remove the provision. That would have been regular order, that would have been fair, that would have been open, but, instead, House Republicans and Senate Republicans themselves to replace Ms. Lee’s provision with alternative language calling upon the administration to produce a report.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. Cole. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGovern), my good friend, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, the funds withheld is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Cole. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. Cole. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only. I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGovern), my good friend, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, the funds withheld is for the purpose of debate only.

General Leave

Mr. Cole. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.
Republicans on the Rules Committee defended this action, saying that the Lee amendment legislated on an appropriations bill. The trouble with that logic, Mr. Speaker, is that the language that replaced Ms. Lee’s amendment sticks taxpayers with a $1.6 billion bill for President Trump’s reckless and ineffective border wall with Mexico.

Now, instead of bringing that measure to the floor for an up-or-down vote in an open process where all voices could be heard, the Republican leadership is sticking this provision into the rule so that as soon as the rule is approved, the measure will automatically become part of the bill.

President Trump, as you may recall, promised the American people that he would make Mexico pay for this wall. He repeated it over and over and again during the campaign. But now, House Republicans want to take $1.6 billion of hard-earned tax dollars from millions of Americans to fund it.

Let me point out, Mr. Speaker, this $1.6 billion is only targeted at 74 miles of the border: two small tracts in Texas and one small tract in California.

And how did this provision on the border wall make its way into this minibus of appropriations bills? It was literally lifted out of the Homeland Security appropriations bill and its few sentences air-dropped into this package.

Where is the rest of the Homeland Security bill, Mr. Speaker? Sitting in limbo, that is where it is. I guess there weren’t any other national security priorities in the Homeland Security Appropriations bill that merited the very special treatment that the 74 miles of this lousy wall seem to be getting. I see that the only priority that matters for my Republican friends when it comes to the security of our Nation is 74 miles of wall costing $1.6 billion.

Mr. Speaker, this is a disgrace. This is just a disgrace.

And then, because it will be part of a self-executing rule, Republicans won’t even have to vote on this Republican priority. They will just vote on the rule and, bingo, it is all taken care of. There will be no separate vote on this. You get the funding for the wall, but nothing on record that says you voted to waste $1.6 billion on 74 miles of border wall. Republicans can go home and say they delivered on the wall. I guess they better hope that their constituents don’t ask them to show them the vote.

But as I said, Mr. Speaker, this is a disgrace on funding. It is a disgrace on funding priorities, and it is a real disgrace on process. I mean, we should be ashamed of the process in which this bill is being brought to the floor.

I wish I could say that I am surprised by all of this, but the fact is that House Republicans have been doing this kind of thing for quite some time now. This week, you may have read about this: Kellyanne Conway claimed that even if President Trump is wrong about something that isn’t true, it is not a lie if he believes it. Well, you can’t make this stuff up. Well, I take that back. I guess you can make everything up. It seems clear that this warped logic has infected this Chamber, with the House Republican leadership employing this same kind of thinking and underhanded means. They defend a process that is indefensible, plain and simple.

This is a rigged process. Let’s be honest. This is a rigged process.

Is this really how we want Congress and this House to conduct the business of the American people? Is this how we will conduct the appropriations process not only now, but in the future: no debate for individual appropriations bills and severely limiting amendments overall? no regular order and a subversion of the committee process?

Soon, maybe there will be no amendments on appropriations bills at all. This is a slippery slope, and I urge my Republican colleagues to consider the dangerous road that we are going down.

Americans deserve better from their leaders in Congress, especially when it comes to deciding how the American people’s hard-earned tax dollars will be spent. Republicans talk about fiscal responsibility, but what I see here today is another reckless and bloated budget proposal that empties the Treasury vaults for wasteful military spending when we have so many critical priorities here at home that are in desperate need of funding.

Now, apparently, House Republicans have no problem with spending $1.6 billion on President Trump’s border wall proposal. I am against investing in our own communities here at home, they can’t be bothered.

How about investing in our kids’ schools? Why aren’t we doing more to ensure that our young people have the resources and the support they need to get additional education? Make college more affordable, for example. Wouldn’t that be a radical idea?

Republicans love to talk about personal responsibility and the need for Americans to work. Why aren’t we investing $1.6 billion more in job training programs and finding ways to increase wages?

We should be making sure that more families have access to good jobs and that no one in America who works full-time has to raise their family in poverty.

President Trump had what feels like countless infrastructure weeks, but we have yet to see Republicans propose any legislation to make good on their promise to finally invest in America’s infrastructure and finally fix our Nation’s crumbling roads and bridges.

Instead of making any of these policies the top priorities that they should be in this Congress, Republicans are just offering more of the same: empty rhetoric and broken promises.

One of the policies that we will consider today, H.R. 3219, does fund some important priorities. Our national security must be our number one priority with policies that are both strong and smart. I strongly support our troops everything that they need. And I believe that Congress should provide our troops everything that they need. Yet Republicans have deliberately created a security bill that raises serious concerns.

Let’s recap for a second, Mr. Speaker. The final version of this bill will include $1.6 billion for the President’s useless and immoral border wall. It strips out the bipartisan Lee amendment that would have reduced the cost of the border wall. Congress finally grappling with the wars that we are sending our troops to fight instead of continuing to write the White House a series of blank checks. And to top it all off, Mr. Speaker, the four bills contained in H.R. 3219 blow through the Budget Control Act cap on defense spending by $72 billion, threatening a 13 percent sequester cut to all defense accounts.

By financing the defense spending cap, House Republicans have proposed reducing nondefense spending to $5 billion below its cap. It is legislative malpractice that Republicans have ignored this reality and have done nothing to work with Democrats to write a new bipartisan budget agreement to raise the Budget Control Act caps for both defense and nondefense spending. Republicans are setting us up for a train wreck, a government shutdown, over it.

This is not good, Mr. Speaker. This should concern every single Member of this Chamber, both Democrat and Republican. And so I urge my colleagues to reject this rule and finally take a vote on the Lee amendment, which is a rigged and closed and restrictive, and to oppose the underlying bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume before I go to my first speaker in order to respond to some of my friend’s points. I want to begin by talking about the amendment process just very quickly.
It is worth noting 72 amendments are made in order here; 47 of those were actually Democratic amendments. Many of the amendments that my friend referred to that had been submitted to the Rules Committee, at least a third of them, were knockouts out because they were not in order.

But my friend is correct: it is not an open rule. I do remind him that the first people to eliminate open rules on appropriations bills were not Republicans. It was actually the Democratic majority in 2009 that ended the practice and, for 2 years, allowed almost no amendments on any appropriations bills, and most appropriations bills never came to the floor. So I think my friends bear a considerable amount of responsibility for where we find ourselves today.

I do want to talk a little bit, too, briefly, about my friend’s comments about the AUMF, because he has been a good friend and a close ally in an area that is also a good friend’s construction along the southern border. This bill will begin this process.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this rule and the underlying bill. The Make America Secure Appropriations Act is all about protecting the American people and securing our homeland.

Unfortunately, years of underfunding have severely hurt our military. With this bill, we can make real progress towards rebuilding the military and adding more troops, sailors, airmen, and marines to the force.

Building on our pledge to boost the Navy to a 355-ship fleet, the bill funds 11 new ships. Included in this are three littoral combat ships, of which the Independence class vessel is built by a fantastic workforce in southwest Alabama.

Having state-of-the-art facilities and resources is vital to the success of our military. To help repair dilapidated and aging military infrastructure, the bill provides a 25 percent increase in military construction funding.

Supporting our servicemembers and their families is also a high priority of this bill, as it provides for the largest military pay raise in 8 years.

That is not all it does. It also provides for our Nation’s veterans, the very people who devoted their lives to protecting our country and the values we hold so dear. This bill provides the highest level of funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs in our Nation’s history. This will help cut down on the claims backlog and move forward with a new electronic medical health records system.

I am also pleased that this bill will allow us to begin increasing our Nation’s defense budget and keep bad actors out of our country.

The American people sent a strong message last November that they wanted a wall securing our southern border. This bill will begin this process by providing over $1.5 billion requested by President Trump for physical barrier construction along the southern border.

Mr. Speaker, over this last weekend a lot of people in America went to see a movie called “Sully” about the evacuation of over 300,000 British and French troops back over to England. Prime Minister Winston Churchill had only been in office a couple of weeks at that point in time, but he had predicted for years before that in speeches before the House of Commons that that day was coming, and they took his speeches and they put them together in a book called, “While England Slept.” With this bill, we are sending a strong message to the world that America is not asleep.

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

Let me just remind my colleagues here that we are debating the rule, and this is about process.

The gentleman from Oklahoma earlier talked about waivers and that the Lee AUMF language would be subject to a point of order. Well, the language that my Republican friends replaced the Lee amendment with is protected by a waiver of all points of order because it was also legislatively on an appropriations bill. As I pointed out last night, the Rules Committee, made it known you made in order amendment No. 19 by Mr. Griffith, which violates section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act, and you provided a waiver for that.

My Republican friends routinely grant waivers in bills that come before the Rules Committee. The problem is that the waivers are only granted for your amendments and never for our amendments, and that is just not fair and that is not right.

So if your policy is going to be we are going to grant no waivers, then it ought to apply not just to Democrats; it ought to apply to Republicans, too. But there is this double standard here, and voices that you disagree with always seem to end up being cut off.

So, Mr. Speaker, I just point that out because this process and the reason why so many of us are angry about this process is it is so blatantly unfair.

The gentleman from Alabama talked about how we all want to commit to upholding the national security of this Nation. I agree with him, but I would say we are not doing our jobs if this floor is not a place where we can have a free-flowing debate where Members can offer different ideas and be able to have a vote on them. I would just say, with all due respect to my Republican colleagues, you do not have a monopoly on all good ideas.
Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Make America Secure Appropriations Act, 2018.

Mr. Speaker, we are in a constrained fiscal environment, and we need to make smart choices about the future of our country. I am disappointed to see that the choices that the Republican leaders have made in this bill are completely out of balance with the needs of the American people.

Republicans have chosen to exclude eight of the appropriations bills from this legislation: funding for roads and bridges to drive on, quality healthcare for our family, protecting our clean air and drinking water, and the education of future generations. These critical investments that all Americans depend upon are left by the wayside for another day.

Republicans have chosen to put forward a bill that exceeds the defense caps by $72 billion. With no budget agreement in sight, this bill would trigger sequestration cuts that our military leaders have warned us would have catastrophic consequences for our men and women in uniform.

Republicans have also once again declined to make commonsense cuts to defense spending by denying the Pentagon's new BRAC request. Make no mistake: this will waste billions of dollars over the next decade.

At a time when countries like China are emphasizing research and investments in clean energy, Republicans have chosen to eliminate funding for ARPA-E, doing great harm—great harm—to America's global competitiveness in advanced research energy.

Mr. Speaker, these choices are simply unacceptable to my constituents and to people, and I urge my Republican colleagues to work with Democrats to put forward appropriate funding bills that will advance the appropriations bills for all of America and to make America the strong country it should be.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, before I go to my next speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to respond to my friend.

First, to my good friend from Massachusetts, I am sure he is very much my good friend, but when I was in the minority, I asked repeatedly, I used to come up to the Rules Committee, as a former member of the Rules Committee, and I always got the warmest, most gracious reception, but I don't think I ever got an amendment approved. You can legislate on appropriations bills if the chairman of the authorizing committee consents to allow you to do it.

I have a great deal of sympathy with my friend's position on Ms. Lee's amendment. I actually supported that amendment in subcommittee, but I recognize that we are not the appropriate committee, and if a different authorizing chairman wanted to do something, he could.

Finally, with all due respect to my friend, we are not the ones that began this process of eliminating open rules on appropriations. My friend's party is actually trying to do that. I regret that we did not succeed in that. This was not something I like doing, but, frankly, it has gotten around here where people are more interested in "got you" amendments than real amendments, and that is basically what has happened here. I hope we can revisit that someday and go back to the traditional way of doing this.

Finally, to my good friend from Minnesota, I want to make a pledge to her, and she knows it is sincere: we will work together. I don't think this bill ultimately will be passed without bipartisan cooperation, and I look at the 2015, 2016, and 2017 bills that all did end up as cooperative measures.

Just to refresh my friend's memory, it was back in April that we passed a $1 trillion-plus spending bill for fiscal year 2017 that was extremely bipartisan. Instead of my friend on the other side of the aisle voted for it, the majority of my friends voted for it, and the President of the United States signed it.

This is a long and lengthy process to fund the government, and I suspect, at the end of it, we will come together. That is certainly what I am going to try to do as I work through the process.

Mr. Speaker. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS), a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule for H.R. 3219. This bill provides funding for the Federal Government's most critical function—national defense—with the Make America Secure Appropriations Act, as we are making a promise to our men and women who protect and defend our country have the best equipment and training in the world, and that they get the pay raise they deserve.

Additionally, I am pleased to see my provisions I worked on were included in this legislation to protect Lake Erie by preventing the Army Corps of Engineers from using open lake placement as a method of disposal of dredged material unless a State water quality certification is provided. This is ensuring that Lake Erie remains on the path towards a healthier natural resource.

The bill also allows the EPA Administrator and the Secretary of the Army further authorization to withdraw the waters of the United States rule.

Finally, this legislation provides the resources to better secure our border and protect our citizens and our national security. We are making good on our promises to build the wall.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this rule. I had a real bipartisan amendment that had been in order repeatedly in recent sessions, gaining bipartisan support, to be able to deal with the crisis that our veterans face in terms of addiction, opioids, and PTSD, chronic pain, and traumatic brain injury.

Medical marijuana has helped change the lives of veterans, and it has worked and doesn't kill them the way the abuse of opioids has. Yet the VA, in its infinite wisdom, doesn't even allow VA doctors to talk to veterans about medical marijuana in the States where it is legal, or even allowed the VA doctor to work with the patients—the people who know them best.

It passed last year with 40 votes on a bipartisan basis. There were 18 bipartisan cosponsors for the amendment, 9 and 9, Republican and Democrat. It has already passed the Senate by a 3-to-1 margin in committee.

It was actually approved by the House last Congress, but in conference committee, it was stripped out, led by former Senator Kirt. I sincerely believe that one of the reasons he is a Democrat is to make sure that our veterans and their families were outraged about that action to reverse what Congress did.

Now we are not even allowed to vote on it. I think that is incomprehensible. I don't think it is fair to our veterans. My friends on the Rules Committee are on the wrong side of history. In Florida, last November, 71 percent of the people voted for medical marijuana.

Our veterans deserve the right to work with their doctors to do what is right for them and their families and, hopefully, avoid the epidemic of opioid overdoses, overprescriptions, and not being able to treat them with a methodology that is not highly addictive and not dangerous.

Mr. Speaker, there is no reason on God's green earth that we shouldn't have been allowed to at least vote on this bipartisan amendment to protect our veterans.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to respond very quickly to my good friend from Oregon. I just remind him this is a long and
winding road. It is a long process. As he said, the Senate may very well move in a different direction.

I tend to focus here on veterans' issues as issues that have largely brought us together. Quite frankly, this bill has a very substantial increase in spending for the VA, and that is something that I know, in committee, garnered wide bipartisan support. Let's wait and see where we go.

I just want to say I think there will be considerable discussion about this, but there is also a concern, always, on something like this that is controversial. We have seen our friends do this before. Sometimes you will put an amendment in but you won't vote for the final bill.

When you are trying to calculate whether you pass something, you can't have amendments that cost you votes, that don't get you votes. I am not suggesting that is my friend's purpose. It is not at all. I know it is not. I know he is very sincere in this. I am saying that could easily be the effect.

All I can tell you is we will continue to work through the bill. I suspect when we get there, at the end of the day, this will be a very bipartisan bill. It will pass with a very bipartisan majority.

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) so he may respond.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would just say this was an opportunity to bring us together. It passed last Congress on the floor of the House with a 40-vote margin. There is more support now, today, in the public and in the other body.

This was an opportunity to avoid unnecessary controversy, to send a signal to our veterans, to change a destructive veto that the Veterans Administration had in its process that is overwhelmingly supported by the American public. If you would have allowed us to vote on the floor of the House, I will guarantee you we would have had even more votes this time.

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

Mr. Speaker, when Speaker Ryan took the gavel, he promised to have "a process that is more open, more inclusive, more deliberative, and more participatory,"

My friends like to highlight a number of amendments made in order today as if this is a good process. I would remind you, Mr. Speaker, that, rather than taking up one issue at a time, this is a rule for three appropriations bills. I say to my friends, you guys are worse than you used to be.

There are 10 amendments allowed for the Legislative Branch. Last year you made 13. We have fewer amendments this year.

For the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill, there are 16 amendments. Just a short time ago, in fiscal year 2016, we had a modified open rule. This rule is clearly much worse.

We have the same situation with the Energy and Water bill. We have a structured rule this year, while we had a modified open rule just 2 years ago. The process in the House is getting worse.

For the first time in history, we have a Speaker of the House who has never allowed a truly open rule. Now, we were not perfect, Mr. Speaker, but Speaker Pelosi allowed the Rules Committee to report open rules. Speaker Boehner allowed open rules. Every Speaker in modern history allowed some open rules, but we don't even get modified open rules anymore.

Mr. Speaker, we are seeing an alarming rise in the number of self-executing rules, what Republicans used to call "deem and pass rules." Now, let me explain what that is.

In his book, "Young Guns: A New Generation of Conservative Leaders," our dear friend Mr. Gingrich described the self-execution process. This is on page 98, if you are following along. But he called this process, "legislative trickery to enact legislation that does not have majority backing."

Now, sometime today we are going to go back up to the Rules Committee to do a little legislative trickery to fund the President's border wall.

News flash: Mexico is not paying for the wall. The language that the Speaker intends to deem passed without a vote under an American greenbacks to pay for Trump's wall.

The American taxpayers are going to be stuck with this bill for this ridiculous wall.

Mr. Speaker, this process is not good; it is not a better way; it is rotten; and it is a lousy wall.

The American taxpayers are going to pay for Trump's wall. The language that the Speaker of the House has put in this previous question vote as very different than the usual garden variety previous question vote, because this is different. This isn't about ideology. This isn't about 30-second adds and all that nonsense that we both do. No.

This is about having the opportunity—Republicans and Democrats, Members of Congress—to offer an amendment in important areas, especially the Fourth Amendment.

So please vote "yes" on the previous question this time, and let's have open rules. Let's have democracy in America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

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

I just want to quickly respond to my friends and remind them that it wasn't Republicans that gave rules on appropriations. It was my friends. So you can't set one standard for yourself, and then say: But you now have to go back to the way it was. We now have to be treated as a minority, in contrast to the way that we treated you.

I am sorry, that is just difficult. We actually tried to do that for a couple of years, and we did come back to open rules. And I would still prefer that, to tell you the truth, I have lost this argument in my own conference.

But if my friends will recall, last year on, I believe, the Energy and
Water Appropriations bill, they slipped an amendment in. It was perfectly legitimate for them to do so. It was an open rule. They got that amendment adopted. They did not vote for the bill, even though the amendment was adopted. After a lot of votes, in a sequence, because of the amendment.

So there is always that calculus when you put these things together. There is a difference between an amendment that is a substantive amendment, an amendment that is unrelated and a poison-pill amendment. Our side just decided they weren’t going to subject themselves to that any longer. I am not sure that I agree with that decision, but that is the reality of where we are.

There is a second consideration here, too, in terms of limitation that I think is worth noting. We are moving under an expedited situation because we began this process late. I want to take responsibility for that on our side of the aisle.

I think all of the appropriations bills could have and should have been finished for FY17 in December of 2016. Instead, we allow the new administration to have input. We pushed that off and did a 4-month continuing resolution. During that period, we did not negotiate back and forth. We finally passed a bill in April. So we are moving with exceptional speed.

I think it is pretty remarkable at this point that all 12 appropriations bills have been reported out of committee, and are preparing to go here. Our side, I think, a smart decision, in that here are four that all relate to a common theme of security for the country. Let’s get those done. That is sort of first things first.

Let’s come back and deal with the other eight in September. It is my hope that we can get the numbers and count, but we are at least trying to get back to getting the bills to the floor and having a pretty generous latitude for serious amendments. We will always allow, which is what we should do, as is made in order. A lot of Republican amendments weren’t made in order either, but 72 amendments on an appropriations bill is a lot of amendments.

Hopefully, this process can get better as we want to work with my friends in that regard, but I am still very proud of the product that we are presenting and very proud of the number of amendments that are being allowed.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter signed by a number of civil rights groups, education groups, environmental groups, and women’s groups in opposition to this minibus.


Re Oppose H.R. 3219 Security Minibus—Vote No.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of our coalition of almost 90 environmental, faith, immigration, and civil rights organizations, we are writing to strongly urge you to oppose funding for the continued construction of a border wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The construction of a border wall serves as a symbol of hostility towards immigrants, and undermines the civil rights of communities living along the southern border. It also imposes environmental costs and natural disaster threats on border communities, especially indigenous communities, harms native wildlife and wastes tens of billions in taxpayer dollars.

As the House moves to consider the Fiscal Year 2018 Security Minibus, H.R. 3219, we are profoundly concerned about the inclusion of $1.6 billion slated for border wall. In addition to spending billions of taxpayer dollars, adding funding for the border wall in this legislative package undermines a fair and transparent legislative process. Instead of allowing legislators and the public to fully consider the implications of funding wall construction, the Majority is using rushed and underhanded legislative maneuvers to circumvent the vast and legitimate opposition that exists for this measure, even within their own party.

Including border wall funding in a Security Minibus is based on the false premise that environmental and indigenous communities are responsible for illegal immigration and criminal activity. This false premise has been used to justify and advance anti-immigrant, anti-border, pre-criminalization, and anti-environment legislation that has negative economic and civil rights impacts on border communities. The fact is that communities along the border are some of the safest in the country. According to the FBI’s Uniformed Crime Reports, cities on the border are safer than cities away from the border. Places like El Paso, Texas have long topped the lists of safest cities for low crime and violence.

Additionally, according to the American Immigration Council, communities with more immigrants are likely to be safer than places with fewer immigrants.

Border walls are an ineffective tool in curbing undocumented migration between the United States and nations south of the border. Rather than deter migration, the current 650-mile barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border has forced vulnerable migrant populations to pursue more dangerous routes of travel. The continued construction of a border wall portrays an attitude of hatred and animosity towards our neighboring nations and their people. Construction of this wall would undermine indigenous border communities, potentially destroying elements of their history, archeology, and culture. Border security measures must consider the historic Tribal lands and families occupying the southern border.

Finally, the current proposal in Fiscal Year 2018 for a 60 mile levee border wall in the South Texas Rio Grande Valley; 28 miles would be levee-border wall, with 2.9 miles of levee and 51.1 miles of levee-border wall. This levee-border wall construction is an extreme impact to wildlife migration, pose severe flooding risks, destroy natural habitats, and lead to potential increased extinction rates. In order to construct existing border-walls, dozens of laws protecting our environment, public health, and sacred natural lands were waived. Our nation’s cultural heritage, vibrant wildlife, and healthy ecosystems are unacceptable sacrifices to make for ineffective security measures.

In light of the above reasons, we strongly urge you to vote NO on the Fiscal Year 2018 Security Minibus, and oppose funding for border walls, levees, or additional infrastructural along the southern border of the United States.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

CIVIL RIGHTS

Mi Familia Vota, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC), HONOR PAC, UnidosUS (formerly NCLR), American Civil Liberties Union, Asian Americans Advancing Justice Atlanta, The City Project, National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA), League of United Latin American Citizens, EFPC.

COMMUNITY GROUPS


EDUCATION/HIGHER EDUCATION

National Education Association, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU).

ENVIRONMENTAL/ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Earthjustice, Wildlands Network, Sierra Club, International League of Conservation Photographers, Students for a Just and Stable Future, Earthworks, Friends of the Earth Environmental Protection Action Center, Turtle Island Restoration Center, Center for Biological Diversity, Jesus People Against Pollution, Food Empowerment Project.


RELIGIOUS/FAITH ORGANIZATIONS


HUMAN RIGHTS/WOMEN’S RIGHTS

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, OneAmerica, Green Valley/Sahuarita Samaritans, Samirah, Catholic2Catholic, Derechos Humanos, National Immigrant Justice Center, No More Deaths, Architects, Designers, Planners For Social Responsibility (ADPSR), Lidia’s Legacy—More Pacific American Women’s Forum (NAPAWF), Tucson Samaritans, People Helping People in
the Border Zone, Friends of Broward Detainees.

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, Detention Watch Network, Immigrant Legal Resource Center, End生产线Coalition.

LABOR/WORKERS RIGHTS
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA), Jobs With Justice, Arkansas United Community Coalition.

LATINO CIVIL/HUMAN RIGHTS/LATINO LABOR

LGBTQ RIGHTS
National Center for Transgender Equality, Equality California, Entre Hermanos.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter signed by 18 environmental groups opposed to H.R. 3219.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of our millions of members, the undersigned organizations urge you to oppose H.R. 3219, the so-called Make American Secure Appropriations Act, 2018, which includes the Defense, Legislative Branch, and Energy and Water funding bills. This package includes provisions to move to water laws and resources, cuts funding for clean energy innovation, undermines safe nuclear waste storage, and attacks border communities. Furthermore, this bill continues the House Leadership’s pattern of adding harmful policy riders into spending bills in an attempt to avoid regular order. Lastly, the inclusion of X-10 and the continued construction of a failed, divisive, and anti-environmental wall along the southern border of the United States would be the latest example of inserting harmful, controversial, and even radical policy proposals onto spending bills, which undermines the legislative process and the already complex budget process. This bill reflects a set of values that is not shared by the American people—one of clean air and clean water, one of equity and prosperity, one of safety and security.

ENERGY PROVISIONS
The bill also includes $120 million in a continue operating for energy, solar energy, advanced manufacturing, and would harm border communities, and it includes poisonous policy riders that will harm our nation’s public health, air, water, lands, and wildlife. We also urge opposition to any amendments that would harm health and the environment.

Sincerely,


Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the Coalition on Human Needs against this minibus.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the Coalition on Human Needs against this minibus.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the Coalition on Human Needs, I strongly urge you to vote against the package of military—appropriations bills that will come to the House floor this week. These appropriations bills—including those for Defense, Military Construction and Veterans’ Affairs, Legislative Branch, and Energy and Water—should not be taken up until there is a bipartisan agreement to lift the sequestration caps for in the Budget Control Act in a way that provides for increased funding for domestic and international (non-defense discretionary, or NDD) appropriations, not just for the military. As you know, defense appropriations exceed the Budget Control Act cap for FY 2018 by $72 billion. Without legislation to raise the caps, sequestration will increase through across-the-board cuts to military programs. Legislation to lift the caps requires bipartisan support, and we expect that support will not be forthcoming without an agreement to raise the caps for non-defense discretionary spending as well.

The Coalition on Human Needs, which is made up of organizations representing millions of human service providers, faith organizations, policy experts, civil rights, labor, and other advocates concerned with meeting the needs of low-income and vulnerable people, strongly believes that our national security depends on a balanced approach that invests in our domestic needs. Our people gain security from effective social service programs and training, affordable housing, a reliable and modern infrastructure, and child care

H6320
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE
July 26, 2017
and other work supports. We need public health protections from epidemics and environmental protections to ensure clean air and water and to protect against climate disasters. The erosion in domestic human needs programs is necessary for our security and our future. NDD programs apart from Veterans Affairs will be cut by $22 billion in FY2020, below the previous year and 17 percent below the level in FY2010, taking inflation into account. This harsh cut abandons previous congressional commitments to provide defense and non-defense programs with equal relief from sequestration. We urge you to vote against this package of appropriation-related bills because they should not be considered without a comprehensive agreement to lift the caps for all the programs that contribute to our security.

We also ask you to vote against this package of appropriations bills because it includes wasteful funding for the border wall that will not increase our security, and to oppose extraneous and irresponsible policy riders such as those restricting opportunities for young people in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program to enter the military or weakening the Congressional Budget Office. Please vote no on this package of appropriation-related bills, and instead make it a top priority to achieve a bipartisan agreement to lift sequestration caps for non-defense programs, not solely for the military.

Sincerely yours,

DEBORAH WEINSTEIN,
Executive Director.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter to my colleagues from AFSCME opposed to this bill.

AFSCME,

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I urge you to oppose the “Mini-bus” appropriations bill which packages together the Defense, Military Construction and Veterans’ Affairs, Legislative Branch, and Energy and Water Development funding bills.

Congress should not craft funding bills that unilaterally violate the Budget Control Act (BCA) and the parity principle. In this case, defense has been set far above the non-defense discretionary (NDD) spending that is severely underefunded. In fact, passing this bill will not promote American security; rather it charts a direct course for deep cuts to the military. The defense funding levels would trigger sequestration in January 2018, requiring cuts of $72 billion. Further, dramatically increasing only defense funding endangers investments in essential public services. This is evidenced by House Appropriations’ bills’ deep cuts to $65 billion below the current non-defense caps and deep cuts that harm labor, health, human services, education, housing, transportation and other important programs. Instead of reaching a bipartisan agreement as called for by many members of Congress, this bill makes it harder to address urgent needs in other non-defense programs.

A budget deal remains the most likely path toward enactment of appropriation bills that responsibly meet the nation’s national security and domestic needs. AFSCME urges Congress to focus attention on a budget solution that provides commensurate increases for both defense and non-defense. The best way to avoid a fall budget showdown that would leave defense and all government programs, including state and local governments, in the lurch with considerable budget uncertainty and the threat of deep and damaging cuts.

We also oppose this minibus package, because the defense funding proposed by this bill increases the defense funding and military budget at the expense of the non-defense discretionary funding. Defense caps have unduly restricted these kinds of foundational investments; without removing arbitrary caps, crucial investments will suffer. Yet instead of working toward a bipartisan deal to lift these punitive funding caps in a way that treats nondefense discretionary funding equitably, the speaker is moving forward with a minibus package that promotes a strategy to drastically cut non-defense discretionary funding, and by including ideological poison pill riders.

Our national security is critical, but it requires investments that help working families secure their need and deserve, and appropriations bills must invest in critical public services that enable these opportunities. Sequester caps have unduly restricted these kinds of foundational investments: without removing arbitrary caps, crucial investments will suffer. Yet instead of working toward a bipartisan deal to lift these punitive funding caps in a way that treats nondefense discretionary funding equitably, the speaker is moving forward with a minibus package that promotes a strategy to drastically cut non-defense discretionary funding, and by including ideological poison pill riders.

In addition, the well-being of the nation is undermined in this bill by the inclusion of ideological poison pill policy riders. We particularly object to the inclusion of funding for an ill-conceived and mean-spirited border wall. Any of the four appropriations bills included in the minibus.

As the defense portion of this bill violates the Budget Control Act, the increases in funding proposed by this bill are imaginary. The cuts this bill proposes are not. I urge you to reject this bill and work to raise the sequester caps, to allow balanced funding bills—one that adequately invest in the health, safety and education of our nation, and do not include ideological poison pill policy riders. Until this has been accomplished, we urge you to oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

SCOTT FREY,
Director of Federal Government Affairs.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter sent to my colleagues in opposition to this bill from American Federation of Teachers.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS,

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, I urge you to oppose the “Mini-bus” appropriations bill of 2018 (H.R. 5291), the fiscal year 2018 appropriations bill that bundles together the appropriations bills for defense, energy and water development, military construction, Veterans Affairs and the legislative branch. We oppose this bill because it moves in the wrong direction by failing to lift the sequester caps in a manner that maintains parity between defense and nondefense discretionary funding, and by including ideological poison pill riders.

Our national security is critical, but it requires investments that help working families secure their need and deserve, and appropriations bills must invest in critical public services that enable these opportunities. Sequester caps have unduly restricted these kinds of foundational investments; without removing arbitrary caps, crucial investments will suffer. Yet instead of working toward a bipartisan deal to lift these punitive funding caps in a way that treats nondefense discretionary funding equitably, the speaker is moving forward with a minibus package that promotes a strategy to drastically cut non-defense discretionary funding, and by including ideological poison pill riders.

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As the defense portion of this bill violates the Budget Control Act, the increases in funding proposed by this bill are imaginary. The cuts this bill proposes are not. I urge you to reject this bill and work to raise the sequester caps, to allow balanced funding bills—one that adequately invest in the health, safety and education of our nation, and do not include ideological poison pill policy riders. Until this has been accomplished, we urge you to oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

RANDI WEINGARTEN,
President.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, let me just say to my good friend from Oklaho-
That is certainly true in the Veterans Administration. It is certainly true with the gentleman’s provision that he has gotten in now successive bills even under Republican Congresses.

I want to commend him for his work in that regard. I agree very much with his intention. I am from Massachusettis and I may have some differences on this and that process, but that is another person that I agree with in terms of the War Powers Act and in terms of trying to get a new AUMF and reclaim congressional power.

I actually think, strangely enough, even though we disagree on this, that this bill starts us maybe down that road again by requiring the administration to submit a report to justify legally where we are and why, to tell us the strategy, to lay out the costs.

I commend my friend, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. ROYCE, for holding a hearing on this. I see us moving back in that way toward regular order and, hopefully, toward common ground.

Again, I understand my friend’s objections, even when I don’t agree with him. But I thank my friend from California for pointing out that there are parts where we do agree. They are important, and they are incorporated in this bill. Maybe we can make it better in the amendment process.

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

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

I include in the RECORD a letter opposing the funding for the border wall from the League of United Latin American Citizens.


Dear Representative: On behalf of Amnesty International, rejecting the border wall funding without violating the American Nations, the House cannot approve and informed consent of affected Native land holdings, have both passed resolutions.

Second, the construction of a border wall risks escalation of the already serious violations experienced by asylum seekers seeking to enter the U.S. In order to provide a fair asylum process, the U.S. must ensure the existence of sufficiently located, secure, regulated border crossing points for asylum seekers. This is essential to ensure that the U.S. government does not violate the principle of non-refoulement, which is enshrined in the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and binding on States Party to the 1967 Protocol.

Amnesty International strongly urges you to reject funding for the southern border wall, in order to uphold U.S. obligations with respect to Native Americans and arriving asylum seekers.

Sincerely,
JOANNE LIN,
Senior Managing Director, Advocacy and Government Relations.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter opposing the funding for the border wall from the League of United Latin American Citizens.

LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS,

House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Dear Representative: On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation’s largest and largest Latino civil right organization, I write to oppose any legislative attempts to keep funding the construction of a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border. The expansion of a Trump deportation force, and the increase of detention beds in immigrant incarceration centers.

As the House moves to consider the Fiscal Year 2018 Department of Homeland Security Appropriation bill, and other security related bills, LULAC is deeply concerned about language that would provide billions for the construction of a costly and divisive wall along the Southern border, as well as hundreds of millions to hire a deportation force and expand immigrant incarceration.

The continued criminalization of immigrants, militarization of the border, and rush to fund a costly, ineffective, and destructive wall on the U.S.-Mexico border are aims of radical politicians seeking to advance a xenophobic, anti-Latino agenda in this Congress. Unfortunately, this administration has failed to focus on legitimate staffing concerns at ports of entry, rebuilding ports infrastructure, and protecting the land, water, and environment of border land. Instead, it is looking to seize the private property of border residents, destroy the natural habitat and wildlife in border communities, endanger border water supplies, and turn immigrant neighbors, families, and children into criminals who merit incarceration and deportation.

The League of Representatives should not enable these aims and should oppose any language seeking to advance the radical right-wing agenda of demonizing border communities and scapegoating immigrants. LULAC opposes any DHS appropriation bill, or any other appropriation vehicle, that funds border walls/levese, the hiring of Trump’s deportation force and the continued expansion immigrant incarceration.

Sincerely,
ROGER C. ROCHA, Jr.,
National President.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I include in the RECORD a fact sheet by the Washington Office on Latin America entitled: “Key points about the $1.6 billion border wall.”

Please find below a rigorously sourced analysis of the $1.6 billion in funding for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. The border wall funding is expected to be attached to the appropriations “minibus” in the Rules Committee later this week.

As a leading research and advocacy organization with years of field research and experience working on migration and border security issues, WOLA (the Washington Office on Latin America) outlines a number of reasons why this proposal will be costly, ineffective, and divisive.

WOLA believes that these are overwhelming reasons to oppose President Trump’s request for a border wall and to vote against its inclusion in a bill claiming to fund national security.

Regardless of partisanship, it is clear that the government’s attempt to start building the wall is money wasted.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or would like more information.

Best regards,
ADAM ISACSON.

From the Washington Office on Latin America, July 24, 2017.

KEY POINTS ABOUT THE $1.6 BILLION BORDER WALL

A COSTLY, INEFFECTIVE, AND DIVISIVE BORDER WALL DOESN’T BELONG IN A “NATIONAL SECURITY” APPROPRIATION.

The League of Representatives is pushing to the floor four Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 appropriations bills related to national security, which will be combined into a so-called “minibus” bill. In addition, the House Republican leadership is expected to carve out the most controversial part of the Homeland Security appropriations bill—President Trump’s full request for a border wall—and use a procedural maneuver in the Rules Committee to attach it to this week’s funding bill. Along with money for our military, veterans, and other defense-related items, the House is expected to consider $1.6 billion to start building President Trump’s proposed border wall.

THE BORDER WALL WOULD BE COSTLY.

The bill would fund the Trump administration’s full request for $1.6 billion to build 60 miles of new border wall and fortify 14 miles of existing wall. That comes out to $21.2 million per mile. This is more than four times the $4.84 million per mile cost of fencing built since 2011.

At the rate proposed by President Trump, building additional fencing on the 1,370 border miles that it would cost $26 billion. And that figure doesn’t count the cost of building in more difficult terrain, access roads, maintenance, or acquiring land in Texas, where almost all border landholdings are privately held.

Building the wall carries a huge opportunity cost. $1.6 billion could support many more important border security priorities.

These include upgrading and hiring more personnel for ports of entry, the main vector for illegal drugs. The ports have $5 billion in unmet infrastructure needs. They could include more technology so that border-secu-

The border wall would not stop drug trafficking. To stop drug trafficking across the U.S.-Mexico border, it’s first necessary to understand the difference...
between “ports of entry”—the 44 official land border crossings—and the vast spaces between them, where fencing exists or where Trump’s wall would be built. The ports of entry are border cross points where the majority of heroin and opioids, methamphetamine, and cocaine. “The big issue, really, right now on drugs coming into the United States is Mexico,” Mexico is the United States third-largest trading partner. Our common border is 1,970 miles long. Mexico collaborates on efforts to guard against extra-regional terrorists but has had to deal with drug-smuggling cartels. The United States has spent the last 15 years fundraising for our efforts and growing plants and purchasing materials to revegetate this area, to plant native, host and nectar plants and provide breeding and feeding areas to support wildlife, especially butterflies,” she said.

“The property we have acquired here used to be a commercial onion farm and we have spent the last 15 years fundraising for our efforts and growing plants and purchasing materials to revegetate this area, to plant native, host and nectar plants and provide breeding and feeding areas to support wildlife, especially butterflies,” she said.

“They do have folks who come from around the state, nation, world for the birds and butterflies and other things we have here on the property. Sometimes people show up just looking for indigo snakes,” Treviño Wright said.

In a previously issued statement, the Army Corps of Engineers denied that its contractors cleared or removed trees at the center, but acknowledged the crew placed X marks on the property. Two thirds of the property is below the levee, Treviño Wright said.

Treviño Wright said she surveyed stakes and “X” marks on the property. She posted photos on the center’s web site and Facebook page.

The 100-acre center is part of the wildlife corridor of the lower Rio Grande Valley, which is a migratory flyway for birds, butterflies and a variety of other wildlife. The center’s property already is bisected by earthen levees. Two thirds of the property is below the levee, Treviño Wright said.

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That's an approach that's been employed by both sides, mandating legislation from the top down, without any support from the other side, with all the parliamentary maneuvers that requires.

"We're getting nothing done."

I agree with Senator MCCAIN, and I believe that a majority in this House, Democrats and Republicans, agree with Senator McCAIN. But at some point we have to stop saying: "Well, we will get better. We will get better. It will be better next time. It will be better next time."

Because what is happening is, it is getting worse each time we bring legislations or appropriations to the floor. We are getting more and more restrictive. We are shutting out more and more voices, not just Democratic voices, but Republican voices as well.

This is a deliberative body. We ought to be able to deliberate a little bit. And both Democrats and Republicans have good points. Let us use this opportunity to change things, to go back to the regular order that Senator McCAIN talked so eloquently about yesterday.

There is an opportunity to do that. It doesn't stop us considering the appropriations bills, but what it says is that we will do so under an open rule. We will go back to the way we all say we want to have it, an open process.

If you like some of these amendments, you vote for them. You make this legislation better. If you don't like the amendment you voted against them. I mean, that is the way this body is supposed to operate; none of this underhanded, self-executing of controversial provisions that may not have the support of the majority in this House.

Let's go back to regular order. This is the moment. This is a defining moment.

Democrats and Republicans, if you really mean it when you say you want regular order, then you have to vote for regular order once in a while. You can't keep on making excuses. I think this is the moment that we have on these appropriations bills to send a message to the leadership that we want things done differently here. We want to open things up. I think that is what the majority on both sides really want.

But the question is whether or not we all have the guts to do that. So we have an opportunity to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question so we can bring this legislation up today under an open rule for our amendments. Let's bring it up. Let's do this today. No more excuses.

If you mean what you say when you say you want regular order, this is the opportunity to vote for it. So please vote "no" on the previous question. And I appeal to everybody's bill. Maybe we won't if we can fix it through regular order. Maybe we can add a number of amendments, and even I would support some of these amendments.

Let's give it a chance. Let's work in a bipartisan way. Let's go back to the days when we did have open rules on appropriations. This is the opportunity to do it. Vote "no" on the previous question.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I always have, my good friend for a spirited and thoughtful debate. He always makes good points. Frankly, I always find myself more comfortable when we are on the same side—as we occasionally are—than when we are on opposite sides.

My friend has made many valuable contributions to this institution, particularly pushing us relentlessly in the right direction of reclaiming our lawmaking authority. Having said that, it is always great to call for a new system, a new way, or a return to open rules without admitting you are the ones that abandoned them. We actually tried to restore them. I regret we failed in that, quite frankly, but I will have to say both sides have gotten used to not having open rules because they didn't want to cast tough votes. That is why my friends abandoned the open rule process when they were in the majority in 2009, and, honestly, that is why we abandoned it last year.

I regret it. I will work with my friend probably not today but going forward in trying to reclaim that because I think when we lost it, we diminished the power of every individual Member in Congress. We thought we were protecting them, but the reality is they now can no longer come to the floor as an individual and present their own idea.

But at least in this case there are 72 amendments. The majority of them are on my friend's side of the aisle. I would hope going forward, particularly when we consider the next eight appropriations bills, we will continue to be very generous in that regard.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to encourage all Members to support the rule. H.R. 3219 represents the first step toward fulfilling our primary obligation as Members of Congress: to fund the government.

We should all be proud of what we have accomplished in putting this bill forward.

The bill contains the provisions of four of the bills passed out of the Appropriations Committee representing the work of the Subcommittees on Defense; Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies; Legislative Branch; and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies.

The bill will significantly increase funding for national defense and ensure that the men and women in the Armed Forces have the tools they need. We also increase funding to our veterans to ensure our fighting men and women will be taken care of long after they leave the service of their country, and we fund key Member priorities in the areas of Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies; and Legislative Branch.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud my colleagues for their hard work.

The material previously referred to by Mr. McGovern is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 473 OFFERED BY Mr. McGovern

Strike all after the resolved clause and insert:

That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, if the House resolves into the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill are dispensed with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair of the Committee of the Whole may acce, nent priority in recognition of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose. Purposes of amendments so printed shall be considered as read. When the committee reports and the bill back to the House with a recommendation that the bill do pass, the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to a resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third day of order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

Sec. 2. At any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2988) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill are dispensed with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair of the Committee of the Whole may accept priority in recognition of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose. Purposes of amendments so printed shall be considered as read. When
the committee rises and reports the bill back to the House with a recommendation that the bill do pass, the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendment thereon to final passage. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports it to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

S. 3. At any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 18 of rule XXI, call the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3296) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against consideration of amendments in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of the order assigned in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. When the committee rises and reports the bill back to the House with a recommendation that the bill do pass, the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

S. 4. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 3219, H.R. 2998, or H.R. 3296.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon’s Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308–311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as “a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge.” To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker’s rulings on January 13, 1939, to the effect that “the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition in order to afford an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: “The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is ENTITLED TO THE FLOOR.”

The Republican majority may say “the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the amendment, and (2) it has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever.” But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Speaker’s statement on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here’s how the Republicans describe the previous vote in their own manual: “Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same purpose may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule.” When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment under the five-minute rule, or yield for the purpose of amending the rule.

In Deschler’s Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled “Amending Special Rules” states: “a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate.” (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: “Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.”

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the ayes appeared to have it.

The question was taken; and the Yeas and Nays were ordered.
Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:
Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 414.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was delayed in returning to the floor. If present, I would have voted “yea.”

Stated against:
Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 414.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

RECORDED VOTE
Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—aye 232, noes 192, not voting 9, as follows:

Abraham
Adcock
Amodei
Arrington
Arias
Ashby
Babin
Baker
Baker (IN)
Baldwin
Baldwin
Barr
Bartlett
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Baxley
Becerra
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Like the quarterly backlog report, this report will help Congress determine whether proposed options to reduce the backlog would do so or actually would increase it.

This bill is an important first step in addressing the security clearance investigation backlog, thereby reducing waste and increasing our Nation’s security.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan good government bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Michigan for his remarks. Congressman STEVE KNIGHT and I introduced H.R. 3210, the Securely Expediting Clearances Through Reporting Transparency Act, or SECRET, to enable Congress to monitor the efficiency of the background investigation process. This bipartisan bill was passed unanimously by the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

H.R. 3210 imposes a commonsense requirement on the National Background Investigations Bureau to report to Congress on backlogs that develop in the background investigation process.

Backlogs have plagued us in the past, as my friend from Michigan just said. In 2004, when the Department of Defense was the lead agency performing background investigations, the Government Accountability Office determined the backlog was 375 days, more than 1 year. Over 100,000 new investigations or reinvestigations were delayed by that backlog.

In response, Congress transferred responsibility for those investigations to the Office of Personnel Management, and more recently, created the National Background Investigations Bureau within the Office of Personnel Management.

H.R. 3210 will provide Congress with the transparency needed to conduct oversight of the National Background Investigations Bureau and to help prevent backlogs like the one we face.

I am also pleased that the bill includes an amendment I offered in committee to require a report to Congress on duplicative costs to assist us in making decisions that protect taxpayers.

Last year, a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act asked the Department of Defense to develop a separate plan, to transfer responsibility for those background investigations of DOD personnel to the Pentagon instead of the National Background Investigations Bureau.

The Bureau would continue to perform other background investigations for all the other government agencies, except the Pentagon. If that plan were implemented, resources and capabilities that are currently under the direction of the Bureau would have to be duplicated by the Department of Defense.

H.R. 3210 would require a report to Congress on the cost of those duplicative resources and efforts. For Congress...
to make an informed choice on who should be responsible for conducting background investigations, we have got to know the costs.

Finally, the Oversight Committee also adopted an amendment offered by my friend and colleague, the Congressman from Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI), that would require a report on the process for performing and adjudicating background investigations for personnel in the Executive Office of the President.

This would help Congress ensure that those with access to the most sensitive information in the White House are thoroughly vetted.

And I thank the gentleman for his thoughtful amendment which also passed unanimously in our committee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of H.R. 3210. I am proud to be the original Democratic cosponsor.

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. KNIGHT), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. KNIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. CONNOLLY for his help and his partnership in the SECRET Act. Today, I rise in support of this straightforward bipartisan legislation, the SECRET Act, or Securely Expediting Clearances Through Reporting Transparency Act.

I am proud to say that this bill originated from concerns voiced by my constituents. California’s 25th District serves as a hub for many national security programs, and by extension, requires a highly skilled, security-cleared industrial base and workforce. But this doesn’t just affect southern California. This is a national issue and must be addressed now.

Many employers are either unable to recruit workers due to excessive backlog of security clearance investigations or are forced to place employees in unfulfilling positions while they wait unacceptable amounts of time for their investigations to be completed.

Mr. Speaker, we are fortunate to live in a country with selfless citizens who seek to serve our Nation in critical national security positions and work towards safety at home and abroad. We need these bright minds to solve incredibly difficult problems and develop the next generation of American-made technology. We should reward them for choosing to work toward something greater than themselves, not punish them for jobs they don’t want just because our bureaucracies can’t move fast enough.

I introduced the SECRET Act so Congress can do its job of oversight better. The transparency afforded in this bill will better inform us of how substantial the clearance backlog is and how long it takes for investigations to be completed. Equipped with that information, we will hold the executive branch accountable and keep our country safe.

I thank Chairman Gowdy and his committee staff for the diligent work on this bill, and I urge my colleagues for their support.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend, Mr. KNIGHT, for this bill. His leadership is really critical.

In my district, like his, thousands and thousands of jobs are open because of this issue. We simply haven’t gotten the security clearances done in an expeditious way. We want them thorough, but we also, frankly, want our national security being addressed at full throttle, and that means full employment in these jobs.

I couldn’t agree more with his sentiments, and I thank him again for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI), my friend and colleague and one of the up-and-coming stars of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for yielding, and I thank Mr. KNIGHT and Mr. MITCHELL for their leadership on this. I also want to thank Ranking Member ELIJAH CUMMINGS for all that he has done to try to get the answers about executive branch background checks.

For over 6 months, various Oversight and Government Reform Committee members have been working to get basic answers from the White House about its process for granting security clearances. In a February 2017 hearing, my colleague, Congresswoman PLASKETT, asked the Director of the National Background Investigations Bureau if any senator administration officials with access to sensitive material were under criminal investigation. Chairman Chaffetz specifically asked the Office of Personnel Management to get back to Representative Plaskett about his responses. Unfortunately, neither OPM nor NBIB have answered these basic questions. That is why I am pleased that the Oversight and Government Reform Committee unanimously adopted my amendment during consideration of H.R. 3210 last week.

My amendment is very simple. It requires the NBIB to report to Congress on the process for conducting and adjudicating security clearances at the White House.

This bill is a necessary first step for Congress to conduct the oversight necessary to ensure that all personnel in the U.S. Government, regardless of administration, regardless of office, regardless of the President who happens to be in office at the time, will be thoroughly vetted and will not pose a threat to our national security.

I encourage all Members to support this bipartisan bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, this issue that Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI refers to is an issue that spans administrations and requires attention not for partisan matters, but for the safety and security of our country.

I am pleased with the amendment. I supported the amendment in committee, and, as noted, it did pass unanimously.

The reason I support this bill is because it pursues some commonsense goals. Think about it: 650,000 outstanding requests, and the only way we get information on that is we get a briefing, no routine reporting.

I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Conn for his vision for this bill. I am pleased to be an original cosponsor, and I am pleased to make sure this was shepherded through committee on a unanimous vote.

I think we all recognize the criticality of classified background checking to make sure people trusted with our Nation’s secrets, in fact, have been properly checked and vetted. But, on the other hand, backlogs hurt our national security, and so expediting it and accelerating reporting on it are really critical, it seems to me, for both intelligence, homeland security, and defense work that protects our citizens.

This is a very important step forward, and I urge its passage.

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

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to adopt the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, as I noted, I am new here in Congress, and I was astonished to find that we had no routine reporting on security clearances. I was astonished to find how much of a backlog we face and the damage it is doing to national security inefficiency.

I support this bill because it pursues a commonsense goal: transparency and efficient operation of the government. I support the amendment and transparency on oversight of the clearances in the White House because I think it is something that should have happened a long time ago.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to adopt the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3210, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ESCAMBA COUNTY LAND CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. McCINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE
H6329
July 26, 2017

bill (H.R. 2370) to authorize Escambia County, Florida, to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and conveyance.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2370

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ‘Escambia County Land Conveyance Act’.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COUNTY.—The term ‘‘County’’ means Escambia County, Florida.

(2) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term ‘‘non-Federal land’’ means the former Santa Rosa Island National Monument land in the State that was conveyed by the United States to the County under the Act of July 30, 1946 (60 Stat. 712, chapter 699), and by deed dated January 15, 1947.

(3) STATE.—The term ‘‘State’’ means the State of Florida.

SEC. 3. RECONVEYANCE OF NON-FEDERAL LAND TO ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

(a) In General.—Notwithstanding the restrictions on conveyance in the Act of July 30, 1946 (60 Stat. 712, chapter 699), and the deed to the non-Federal land from the United States to the County dated January 15, 1947, and subject to subsections (c) through (g), the County may convey all right, title, and interest of the County in and to the non-Federal land, or any portion of the non-Federal land, to any person or entity, without any restriction on conveyance or reconveyance imposed by the United States in that Act or deed.

(b) EFFECT ON LEASEHOLD INTERESTS.—No person or entity holding a leasehold interest in the non-Federal land as of the date of enactment of this Act shall be required to involuntarily accept a fee interest to the non-Federal land in place of the leasehold interest in the non-Federal land.

(c) CONVEYANCE OF LAND WITHIN SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of the authority granted to the County to convey the non-Federal land under subsection (a), the County shall preserve in perpetuity the areas of the non-Federal land that, as of the date of enactment of this Act, are dedicated for conservation, preservation, public recreation access, and public parking, in accordance with any resolutions of the Board of Commissioners of the County.

(2) DETERMINATION OF COMPLIANCE.—The County and Santa Rosa County, Florida—

(i) except as provided in subsection (c)(1), shall not be subject to any time or requirement to make any conveyance or reconveyance of the non-Federal land authorized under this section; and

(ii) may establish terms for the conveyance or reconveyance of the non-Federal land authorized under this section, subject to this Act and applicable State law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by assuring the concerns raised by my friend from Missouri. A provision in the bill—and I will simply read it—I think, answers his concerns rather clearly. It says: ‘‘... the county shall preserve in perpetuity the areas of the non-Federal land that, as of the date of enactment of this Act, are dedicated for conservation, preservation, public recreation access, and public parking, in accordance with any resolutions of the Board of Commissioners of the county.’’
Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AFRICAN AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS NETWORK ACT OF 2017

Mr. MCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1927) to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the African American Civil Rights Network, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1927

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assem-
ded,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “African American Civil Rights Network Act of 2017.”

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(a) to recognize—

(A) the importance of the African American civil rights movement; and

(B) the sacrifices made by the people who fought against discrimination and segrega-
tion; and

(b) to authorize the National Park Service to coordinate and facilitate Federal and non-
Federal activities to commemorate, honor, and interpret—

(A) the history of the African American civil rights movement;

(B) the significance of the civil rights movement as a central element in the evolu-
tion of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000a et seq.); and

(C) the relevance of the African American civil rights movement to the African Amer-
can civil rights movement; and

SEC. 3. U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS NETWORK PROGRAM.

(a) In GENERAL.—Subdivision 1 of Division B of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 3083 the following:

“CHAPTER 3084—U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS NETWORK

“Sec. 308401. Definition of network.

308402. U.S. Civil Rights Network.

308403. Cooperative agreements and memo-
randa of understanding.

308404. Sunset.

“§ 308401. Definition of network.

In this chapter, the term ‘Network’ means the African American Civil Rights Network established under section 308402(a).

“§ 308402. U.S. Civil Rights Network

(a) In GENERAL.—The Secretary shall es-
tablish, within the Service, a program to be known as the ‘U.S. Civil Rights Network’.

(b) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—In carrying 
out the Network, the Secretary shall—

(1) review studies and reports to com-
plement and not duplicate studies of the his-
torical importance of the African American
There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1927, the African American Civil Rights Network Act, introduced by my distinguished committee colleague, Congressman LACY CLAY from Missouri, directs the National Park Service to identify and create a national network of historic sites, research facilities, and educational programs connected to the modern African-American civil rights movement. The network will be comprised of existing units and programs of the National Park Service related to the African-American civil rights movement as well as the properties and programs of other Federal, State, local, and private entities that join the network.

Establishing this network of historic sites connected to the African-American civil rights movement will help preserve the legacy and the struggle of the many courageous individuals who risked their lives to secure racial equality and to put the full measure of the Declaration of Independence and its sacred principles into action. By virtue of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the African American Civil Rights Network Act of 2017, updated and bipartisan legislation that I was proud to introduce along with my distinguished colleagues from Missouri’s Eighth Congressional District, Congressman JASON SMITH. I appreciate his leadership and true friendship as well.

Our legislation, which has already earned 72 cosponsors, would authorize the National Park Service to establish a program to preserve and protect the memorials, facilities, and places that were significant in the struggle to secure equal rights for African Americans during the 20th century’s civil rights era between 1939 and 1968.

The purpose of this legislation is to recognize, protect, and share the remarkable American story of the modern struggle for civil rights, a unique national experience that touches every American regardless of their age, region, or heritage, and yet this very American story is often left untold, without the level of honesty and accuracy that it surely deserves.

In fact, the generation now coming of age has only scant knowledge of the history of the civil rights struggle. Young Americans find it difficult to believe that racial segregation was once considered normal and necessary in the United States. I truly believe that the healing potential for this legislation is essential to bring us together. The historic network that H.R. 1927 would create would offer tremendous educational opportunities by recognizing those brave souls from all walks of life who fought to make the promises enshrined in our Constitution finally ring true for every American regardless of the color of their skin.

Across this great country, precious historic waypoints along the routes of that historic struggle are at risk of being lost forever.

My hope is that the historic civil rights trails and the programs that will grow from this act will honestly tell the true and sometimes painful story of the struggle for civil rights, not just for African Americans, but to foster healing, tolerance, and understanding among all Americans.

This bill is similar to legislation that created the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998, which is currently administered by the National Park Service. It directs the Secretary of the Interior to identify and create a national network of historic sites, stories, research facilities, and educational programs connected to the modern African-American civil rights movement.

This legislation has also earned the strong support of the Civil Rights Coalition, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Parks Conservation Association, and the NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, let me also commend the gentleman from California for his support of this legislation that came out of his subcommittee. I appreciate his help and strong support of it.

I look at this opportunity as something that we should all want to embrace the transformative power of the modern American story. We should seize it.

This bill advances that worthy goal. This bill advances that goal that many sites with a connection to the modern African-American civil rights movement. Through this effort, the National Park Service, with the help of the Organization of American Historians, completed a study to help identify significant sites related to the modern civil rights movement. Through this effort, the National Park Service found that many sites with a connection to the movement had not been formally recognized and that many were in severe disrepair and at risk of being permanently lost.

This legislation establishes a network of sites to include all National Park Service’s units and programs, as well as other Federal, State, local, and private entities for the National Register of Historic Places.

A similar network was created previously by Congress to identify and commemorate the sites and stories related to the underground railroad. This bill would allow the National Park Service to build partnerships with other public and private entities to help preserve the remaining sites.

As part of my religious beliefs, I believe that knowing who you are, where you come from, is a foundation of knowing where you are and where you will be going.

History teaches us important lessons that we have to learn and the value of.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 317) calling for the unconditional release of United States citizens and legal permanent resident aliens being held for political purposes by the Government of Iran, as amended.
The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 317

Whereas Iran has taken as hostages several United States citizens, including Siamak Namazi and Baquer Namazi and Xiyue Wang, as well as United States legal permanent resident, Nizar Zakka;

Whereas Siamak Namazi was detained on October 15, 2015, falsely accused, and convicted on October 18, 2016, for “collaborating with a hostile government” and has been held for nearly two years in solitary confinement and under constant interrogation;

Whereas former UNICEF official Baquer Namazi, the 80-year old father of Siamak Namazi, was detained on February 22, 2016, falsely accused, and sentenced to 10 years in prison for the same crime as his son;

Whereas former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged Iranian authorities to release Baquer Namazi, whose health status is deteriorating, to allow his family to care for him;

Whereas UNICEF has issued four public statements on Baquer Namazi’s behalf;

Whereas Xiyue Wang, a graduate student at Princeton University, was arrested in Iran on or about August 7, 2016, while studying Farsi and researching the late Qajar dynasty as background for his doctoral dissertation, detained on or about September 22, 2016, falsely charged with espionage, and sentenced to 10 years in prison;

Whereas Robert Levinson, a United States citizen, was kidnapped agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, traveled to Kish Island, Iran, and disappeared on March 9, 2007;

Whereas the United States Government had “secured a commitment from the Iranians . . . to try and gather information about Mr. Levinson’s possible whereabouts” but has not received any information thus far;

Whereas Nizar Zakka, a United States legal permanent resident alien and Lebanese national, who is also in a weakened physical state, was unlawfully detained around September 18, 2015, after presenting at a conference in Iran at Iran’s invitation, and was later falsely charged with being an agent of a foreign government and sentenced to 10 years at the Evin prison;

Whereas, on April 13, 2017, the Department of the Treasury sanctioned the Tehran Prisons Organization and its former head, Sobhr Soleimani, and White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer noted “The sanctions against human rights abusers in Iran’s prisons come at a time when Iran continues to unjustly detain in its prisons various foreigners, including US citizens Siamak Namazi and Baquer Namazi”;

Whereas, on April 21, 2017, at the meeting of the Joint Commission overseeing implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the Department of State reported that “the US and Iranian delegations had raised with the Iranian delegation its serious concerns regarding the cases of U.S. citizens detained and missing in Iran, and called on Iran to immediately release these U.S. citizens so they can be reunited with their families”;

Whereas elements of the Iranian regime are reportedly using nationals, dual-nationals, and permanent residents from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, and other countries to exact political or commercial concessions; and

Whereas reports indicate that the Government of Iran is seeking additional payments or other concessions, including relief from economic sanctions, in the families of hostages and their governments as a condition of release, a practice banned by the 1979 International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages and other international legal norms: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) calls on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to release unconditionally Siamak Namazi, Baquer Namazi, Xiyue Wang, and any other United States citizen, legal permanent resident alien, or foreign national being unjustly detained in Iran;

(2) urges the President to make the release of United States citizens and legal permanent resident aliens held hostage by the Government of Iran the highest of priorities;

(3) requests that the United States and its allies whose nationals have been detained consider establishing a multinational task force to secure the release of the detainees; the release of Robert Levinson, including immediately providing all available information from all entities of the Government of Iran regarding the disappearance of Robert Levinson to the United States Government;

(4) encourages the President to take meaningful steps towards fulfilling its repeated promises to assist in locating and returning Robert Levinson, including immediately providing all available information from all entities of the Government of Iran regarding the disappearance of Robert Levinson to the United States Government;

(5) encourages the President to take meaningful action to secure the release of Siamak Namazi, Baquer Namazi, Xiyue Wang, Nizar Zakka, and any other United States citizen, legal permanent resident alien, foreign national being unjustly detained in Iran if the Government of Iran does not release such United States citizens, legal permanent resident aliens, and foreign nationals; and

(6) encourages the President to take meaningful action to secure the return of Robert Levinson if the Government of Iran does not locate and return him.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this particular resolution calls for the unconditional release of American citizens and legal permanent residents that are being held as prisoners right now, being held in jail by the Iranian regime.

I would like to begin by thanking the ranking member and the chair of our Middle East Subcommittee—and that is both Mr. DEUTCH, the chairman, who is with us, and Mr. TRED POT. For their tireless work on behalf of these victims and on behalf of the families. They have introduced this resolution along with Congresswoman NITA LOWEY and Congressman Judge TED POL.

The reason for it, as you all know, is that Iran just continues to engage in this despicable practice of detaining people who are visiting Iran, and then they come up with fabricated criminal charges, and then these innocent people are held captive; but not just held captive, it is the brutal conditions which they find themselves in.

When we have talked to those and they have shown us what they have been through, these former prisoners in Iran, these Americans, they describe being subjected to electric shock, to forced drug withdrawal, through withholding, solitary confinement, they are denied medical care oftentimes, and routinely forced to sleep on the floor, if they are permitted to sleep at all.

Right now we have a number of U.S. citizens, Siamak and Baquer Namazi, Xiyue Wang, and U.S. permanent resident Nizar Zakka.

These U.S. citizens and permanent residents were imprisoned after being falsely accused of collaborating with a hostile government to advance espionage. Their families are paralyzed with fear about how they are being treated. Why is Iran so intent on holding Americans on bogus political charges?

It is because the Iranian regime believes it can use detained Americans as leverage to demand concessions, like ransom or sanctions relief, in violation of the International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages.

U.S. citizen Robert Levinson, he is still missing, and this is after 10 years. He disappeared 10 years ago in Iran, and Iran has not remotely fulfilled its commitment to try to help locate him. Our committee has held multiple hearings with these prisoners’ families, most recently yesterday, when family Members testified before our Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee, and we thank them for their bravery in sharing their stories.

We stand in solidarity with these captive Americans and their families as we call for their release. We can’t imagine the horror that one would be experiencing, but our hearts are with you, and we are committed to advocate on behalf of you and your loved ones.

H. Res. 317 calls on Iran to let these Americans, and all individuals being unjustly detained by Iran, come home. And it also calls on Iran to fulfill its many promises to help find Bob Levinson. It also urges the President to prioritize the release of all detainees and encourages him to take meaningful action to secure their release.

Last week, the administration called on Iran to release these unjustly detained U.S. citizens, or to face new and serious consequences. I appreciate the administration’s actions so far and, with this resolution, urge continual attention to this matter until all of these prisoners have been safely returned to their families.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.
I rise in support of this measure. Let me thank Chairman Royce, because here again is another piece of legislation from the Foreign Affairs Committee that we have shown we can work together within a bipartisan manner; so I am pleased to stand with the chairman.

I am also pleased to stand with the gentlewoman from Florida, former chairman, and my good friend as well, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. She is now chair of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, along with the resolution’s other lead sponsors, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. Lowey), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Deutch), the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee’s ranking member, and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Poe).

We are here today to talk about Americans illegally detained by the Iranian regime, and those Americans have had no stronger champions than the Members I have mentioned before through the years.

Mr. Speaker, it is just outrageous that the Government of Iran continues to hold American citizens and residents on trumped-up charges.

Siamak Namazi, and his 80-year-old father, a former UNICEF official in poor health; Baquer Namazi; Karian Vafadari, an American citizen, and his wife, Afinar Niasari; Nizar Zakka, who was detained after attending a conference in Iran’s invitation; another American citizen who has been kept anonymous by family for fear of that person’s well-being; and, of course, Robert Levinson, who disappeared in Iran more than 10 years ago. How cruel—10 years. His family doesn’t know where he is. His family doesn’t know how he is.

This is a regime, the Iranian regime, which talks about piety and religion, and they don’t have any feeling of humanity, or person to another.

The detainment and disappearance of these people, and citizens of America’s friends and allies, the pain and suffering and uncertainty that their families endure every single day, and the lack of cooperation and information coming out of Tehran, are a pretty clear indication of how this regime operates and what its values are.

The measure we are considering today underscores what Congress has said and continues to say: Iran’s behavior is unacceptable, and it must stop. We call on the government in Iran to release these men and women immediately, without preconditions.

The people of Iran are the real captives of this regime, but those American citizens, Iran’s invidious targets, and we demand their release. The Government of Iran must do what it has long promised by providing information on the disappearance of Robert Levinson, and we urge the Trump administration to make resolving this issue a top priority.

So I am glad to stand with my colleagues on both sides to support this measure. I, again, thank my friend from Florida (Ms. Ros-Lehtinen) for, as always, outstanding, stellar, and heartfelt work on these issues.

I thank Chairman Royce again, and all the people I mentioned before.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. Ros-Lehtinen), who chairs the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, the author of this measure.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman Royce, as well as my good friend, the ranking member, Mr. Engel, for their help in bringing H. Res. 317 to the floor today and for their tireless efforts to hold the Iranian regime accountable for all of its illicit activity, including the taking of American citizens and U.S. legal permanent residents as hostages. They have been incredible supporters of this movement, and I thank them for their unwavering support.

Of course, I want to thank Ranking Member Nita Lowey for her help—I had the opportunity of meeting one of the abuse victims before this presentation—and Judge Poe, who is always at our side, and my south Florida colleague and my dear friend, Ted Deutch, the ranking member on our Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee; we have all joined together in authoring and introducing this resolution.

The resolution, Mr. Speaker, is important for all of us. But for Ted Deutch, for my friend from south Florida, I know how very personal this is for him because it is his constituent.

Bob Levinson, who continues to be held by Iran 10 years after his disappearance.

Just yesterday, Ted and I convened a hearing of the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee with some of the family members who are named in this very resolution.

Doug Levinson, for example, Bob’s youngest child, testified.

Babak Namazi, son of Baquer and Siamak testified.

Omar Zakka, son of Nizar, testified.

All three of them testified before our subcommittee, and their stories were moving, they were heartfelt, and they were heartbreaking. Each one, along with their families, forced to live in their own personal hell.

In Doug Levinson’s case, Mr. Speaker, he presented photos, emails, even videos of his father who, after more than 10 years, is the Nation’s longest-held hostage in our history. What a sad distinction.

We heard how Iran has reportedly and repeatedly failed to live up to its promise to assist in Bob’s case and help return him to his loved ones, including the five grandchildren that Bob has yet to meet.

We heard Omar plead for his father’s life, as Nizar is now 1 month into his fifth hunger strike. But this time, Mr. Speaker, Nizar has vowed that there will be no turning back. Nizar says that he will continue with his hunger strike for himself and the others who are unjustly held by Iran, stating, it is— liberty or death; there is no turning back.

So can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, being 19 years old, a teenager, and he is testifying in front of us yesterday, and he is hearing his father say that he is willing to die in Iran in pursuit of justice, and his thing was breaking as he is testifying in front of us.

We also heard Babak distress over the health of his father and his brother, two loved ones. Mr. Namazi’s father has lost more than 30 pounds in Iran’s notorious prisons. He is 81 years old. He suffers from a severe heart condition. He had to be hospitalized twice in just the past few months. Babak fears that his father’s physical and mental condition are both rapidly deteriorating.

His brother, he fears, has given up hope because of the horrific conditions he is being held under. He is kept in isolation. He is mentally abused. He is physically abused. That is horrifying.

That is heartbreaking.

Though we heard the sorrow in their voices, Mr. Speaker, we also heard defiance and determination. Defiant in accepting the Iranian regime’s absurd claims against Bob, against Baquer, against Nizar; defiant in accepting that their fates are sealed, that there is nothing more that can be done; defiant in remaining silent as their loved ones suffer under the terror regime in Tehran.

We saw their determination—determination as each of the witnesses before us yesterday vowed that their fight is not nearly over, that they remain determined that they can force the return of their loved ones.

And they looked to us, Mr. Speaker, they looked to us to use our positions as Members of the United States House of Representatives to pressure the Iranian regime to release all American citizens, all American legal permanent residents, unconditionally.

They looked to us to demand that Iran be held accountable for its tactic of taking our people hostage in order to get financial or political concessions. And we looked to him to stand up and to decry this practice for what it is—morally corrupt, ethically corrupt, and legally wrong.

That is why Nita, and Ted, and Judge Poe, and Chairman Royce, and Ranking Member Engel, and I introduced this resolution before us today, and that is why Ted and I convened our hearing yesterday; and that is why, today, I am urging all of our colleagues to stand in solidarity with us, with the family members, with the hostages, with America, and with the American citizens and legal permanent residents that it is holding hostage immediately and unconditionally.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. ROYCE of California. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. ROSENSTEN. Mr. Speaker, I hope that our colleagues will indeed stand with us. I hope that this resolution sends a strong message to Iran that this practice will not be tolerated. And I hope that it sends a strong message to our own administration that Congress is invested in the fate of Americans being held by Iran and that we will demand action to win their unconditional release, their immediate release.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), my esteemed colleague, friend, and ranking member of the Appropriations Committee. We have districts that are adjoining.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to thank you for your good offices. Chairman Ed ROYCE, Ranking Member Eliot ENGEL, my fellow New Yorker, and the strong advocate, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. I want to thank them for advancing this very important resolution.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 317, which I introduced with my friends, Representatives ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, Ted DEUTCH, and Ted POE. This resolution calls for the unconditional release of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents being held on baseless charges by the Government of Iran.

Two of these prisoners, Siamak Namazi and Baquer Namazi, were previously my constituents when they last lived in the United States. I have had the honor of getting to know Babak Namazi, the courageous brother and son of these two prisoners, who has tirelessly worked to free them from unjust imprisonment.

While the Iranian Government continues to try and exact concessions with these prisoners from the United States, Baquer Namazi, an 80-year-old former UNICEF leader, suffers from increasingly poor health in Evin Prison. A man who spent his entire life serving the world's most vulnerable should not, cannot, spend his final years in such terrible conditions.

But this is just one prisoner's story. Each of the United States' citizens and legal permanent resident prisoners is suffering while imprisoned on trumped-up charges. Each has family members who worry, every hour of the day, whether they will ever see their loved ones again.

H6334

The United States must do all we can to ensure these prisoners return home.

This resolution sends a strong message to the Government of Iran. These heinous attempts will not pay off. All of the prisoners must be released immediately. And Iran must fulfill its previous promises to locate and return Representative DEUTCH's constituent, Robert Levinson, a U.S. citizen missing in Iran since 2007.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), who has worked tirelessly to free his constituent from the Iranian regime.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 317, calling for the unconditional release of United States citizens held by Iran.

Unfortunately, I am all too familiar with this issue. My constituent, and now my good friend, Amir Hekmati, a Marine veteran, was held by the Iranian regime in Evin Prison for 4½ brutal years.

Thankfully, after a long struggle with the help of many voices across the country and across the world, including my friends, the ranking member and the chairman of this committee, who both used their good offices to advance the interests of Mr. Hekmati, ultimately he was freed. On January 16, 2016, he came home.

But it is long past time for Iran to release those Americans that they are holding, particularly Mr. Levinson, with whom I became quite familiar and whose family I came to know during the period of time that I was fighting for freedom for Mr. Hekmati. Mr. Levinson's family has endured 10 unspeakable years of anguish trying to bring their father and husband home.

If Iran ever wants to be taken seriously in the global community, it has to stop this practice of taking innocent people as political prisoners, people like Amir Hekmati, people like Mr. Levinson, and those other Americans being held today.

It is also important to note, both for us here in this body, across the country, particularly for those watching in other parts of the world, including Iran, that there are times when we have divisions in our government, even on the floor of this House of Representatives. This is not one of them. We stand absolutely united as Democrats, as Republicans, as Independents, as Americans, saying to the Iranian Government and speaking through the Iranian people to their government: You cannot take political prisoners and hold them and expect to be taken seriously as a member of the global community.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, to send that strong message, to pass this resolution. I thank the sponsors of this resolution. I thank the chair and ranking member for their leadership on this issue now, and particularly at a time when my constituent most needed it, and I pray for the same success for those Americans that are being held now.

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

Mr. Speaker, yesterday this House spoke in no uncertain terms, in a bipartisan fashion, about what we think of Iran's dangerous and destabilizing
behavior. An overwhelming bipartisan majority voted to slap tough new sanctions on Iran for its ballistic missile program, for the regime's support for terrorism, and for the awful record of human rights abuses against the Iranian people.

Tehran should know that we mean business. We will not back down on any of these issues, and we certainly will not forget that Americans are being wrongfully held.

I am glad to go on record once again, along with my colleagues, Chairman ROYCE, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, NITA LOWEY, everyone who has spoken today, shining a line on this abuse, to put it front and center in our foreign policy, to call on Iran's leaders to release these people, and to say they will not be forgiven as long as these people are unlawfully held.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to vote "yes." I am happy that we are bringing this important issue to the forefront, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would just say that the individuals that we are talking about, the Americans that are being held in captivity and their families, have been suffering for far too long. I think our country needs to take decisive action to secure their release, and I believe that we have got to make sure that Iran and all other hostile actors who would follow Iran down this road know that taking U.S. prisoners does not pay.

I again thank Mr. ENGLE and the gentlewoman and gentleman from Florida, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and TED DEUTCH, for their leadership, along with NITA LOWEY and TED POE.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution as the next step toward bringing these innocent people back home to the United States, and I yield back the balance of my time. The Speaker pro tempore.

The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 317, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the consideration of H.R. 3219, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 473 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 3219.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) to preside over 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 consideration of the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, with Mr. BOST in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and not exceed 2 hours equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) each will control 60 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 6 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to present an amendment to H.R. 3219, the Make America Secure Appropriations Act. This legislative package provides critical appropriations for national security, including for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Energy's nuclear programs, and the Legislative Branch bill.

My colleagues, this is the primary constitutional duty of the Congress: to ensure the safety of the homeland and the American people.

This legislation is carefully crafted to meet that responsibility: funding our critical military priorities, supporting veterans, and making our borders more secure.

The core of this package is full-year funding for the Department of Defense and the intelligence community. I thank Chairwoman GRANGER for her leadership.

In total, the Defense portion of the bill provides $658.1 billion for these functions, an increase of $68.1 billion in base discretionary funding above the fiscal year 2017 enacted levels.

There is no doubt that this is a significant increase from the current spending levels, and certainly from the last 8 years. But this increase is vitally important to continue the process we started to rebuild, repair, and re-equip our Armed Forces that we started in the 2017 appropriations package.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, this package also includes funding for important legislative branch functions—and I thank Chairman YODER for his leadership—improving security to ensure
that our Members, our staffs, and visitors to this wonderful Capitol complex are always well protected.

Mr. Chairman, before I close, I offer thanks to members of the Appropriations Committee for their hard work and tough decisions over the past few months producing two appropriations bills, fiscal year 2017 and 2018, in less than 3 months.

As you know, we received the President’s budget on May 23, just over 2 months ago, and since then, we have worked nonstop to put all 12 bills through the committee in record time. Each and every one of these bills deserves to be sent to the President’s desk. I look forward to completing our work on all of our bills.

I also would like to extend my personal thanks to the entire committee and to our remarkable staff for their hard work on these bills and the eight yet to come.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.
# CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

## DIVISION A - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)

(Amounts in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
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### TITLE I

#### MILITARY PERSONNEL

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### TITLE II

#### OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

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### DIVISION A - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)
(Amounts in thousands)

<table>
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<th>FY 2017</th>
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<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. enacted</th>
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<td><strong>TITLE III</strong></td>
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<td><strong>PROCUREMENT</strong></td>
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| **TITLE IV** |
| **RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION** |
| Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army | 8,332,965 | 9,425,440 | 9,874,222 | +1,341,257 | +248,782 |
| Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy | 17,214,530 | 17,675,035 | 17,196,521 | -1,198,109 | -478,514 |
| Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force | 27,788,548 | 34,914,359 | 33,874,980 | +6,068,432 | +1,039,379 |
| Operational Test and Evaluation, Defense | 186,994 | 210,900 | 210,900 | +23,906 | --- |
| Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, National Defense Restoration Fund | --- | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | +1,000,000 | --- |
| **Total, Title IV, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation** | 72,301,567 | 82,718,836 | 82,654,976 | +10,353,389 | -61,650 |
### DIVISION A - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2018 (H.R. 3210)
(Amounts in thousands)

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<tr>
<td>Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense/</td>
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<td>Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Fund</td>
<td>998,800</td>
<td>790,814</td>
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<td>Joint Urgent Operational Needs Fund</td>
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<td>14,442</td>
<td>---</td>
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<td>Office of the Inspector General 1/2</td>
<td>312,035</td>
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<td><strong>Total, Title VI, Other Department of Defense Programs</strong></td>
<td>35,615,831</td>
<td>35,888,136</td>
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<td><strong>TITLE VII</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RELATED AGENCIES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability</td>
<td>514,000</td>
<td>514,000</td>
<td>514,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>System Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intelligence Community Management Account (ICMA)</td>
<td>518,596</td>
<td>532,000</td>
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<td><strong>Total, Title VII, Related agencies</strong></td>
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DIVISION A - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)
(Amounts in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs.</th>
<th>Bill vs.</th>
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### TITLE VIII

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
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<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>Bill</th>
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<td>Additional transfer authority (Sec.8005)</td>
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<td>-5,000,000</td>
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<td>FFRDC (Sec.8023)</td>
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<td>-210,000</td>
<td>-150,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rescissions (Sec.8040)</td>
<td>-2,002,622</td>
<td>-891,381</td>
<td>+1,111,241</td>
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<td>National grants (Sec.8047)</td>
<td>44,000</td>
<td>44,000</td>
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<td>Shipbuilding and conversion, Navy Judgment Fund</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-5,000</td>
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<td>O&amp;M, Defense-wide transfer authority (Sec.8051)</td>
<td>(30,000)</td>
<td>(30,000)</td>
<td>(30,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Development</td>
<td>(1,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fisher House Foundation (Sec.8086)</td>
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<td>Revised economic assumptions (Sec.8073)</td>
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<td>-289,000</td>
<td>-132,000</td>
<td>-289,000</td>
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<td>Defense acquisition workforce development excess cash balances (recission) (Sec.8081)</td>
<td>-531,000</td>
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<td>-10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fisher House O&amp;M, Navy transfer authority</td>
<td>(11,000)</td>
<td>(11,000)</td>
<td>(11,000)</td>
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<td>Defense Health O&amp;M transfer authority (Sec.8090)</td>
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<td>(115,519)</td>
<td>(115,519)</td>
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<td>Working Capital Fund, Army excess cash balances (Sec.8110)</td>
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<td>Revised fuel costs (Sec.8111)</td>
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<td>-1,007,267</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ship Modernization, Operation, and Sustainment Fund (recission)</td>
<td>-1,391,070</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide (Department of the Interior Compact Review Agreement)</td>
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<td>123,900</td>
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<td>-123,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military pay raise (Sec.8121)</td>
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<td>206,400</td>
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<td>+206,400</td>
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<td>Public Schools on Military Installations (Sec.8122)</td>
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<td>235,000</td>
<td>+235,000</td>
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Total, Title VIII, General Provisions: -5,583,892

### TITLE IX

OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM (GWOT)

#### Military Personnel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military Personnel, Army (GWOT)</td>
<td>1,948,648</td>
<td>2,635,317</td>
<td>2,635,317</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military Personnel, Navy (GWOT)</td>
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<td>377,857</td>
<td>377,857</td>
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<td>Military Personnel, Marine Corps (GWOT)</td>
<td>179,733</td>
<td>103,800</td>
<td>103,800</td>
<td>-75,933</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military Personnel, Air Force (GWOT)</td>
<td>705,706</td>
<td>912,779</td>
<td>912,779</td>
<td>+207,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve Personnel, Army (GWOT)</td>
<td>42,506</td>
<td>24,942</td>
<td>24,942</td>
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<td>Reserve Personnel, Navy (GWOT)</td>
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<td>9,091</td>
<td>9,091</td>
<td>-2,838</td>
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<td>Reserve Personnel, Marine Corps (GWOT)</td>
<td>3,764</td>
<td>2,328</td>
<td>2,328</td>
<td>-1,436</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reserve Personnel, Air Force (GWOT)</td>
<td>20,535</td>
<td>20,569</td>
<td>20,569</td>
<td>+34</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Guard Personnel, Army (GWOT)</td>
<td>196,472</td>
<td>184,589</td>
<td>184,589</td>
<td>-11,863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Guard Personnel, Air Force (GWOT)</td>
<td>5,268</td>
<td>5,004</td>
<td>5,004</td>
<td>-284</td>
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</table>

Total, Military Personnel (OCO/GWOT): 3,442,008

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## DIVISION A - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)

(Amounts in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. FY 2018 Request</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operation and Maintenance</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Operation &amp; Maintenance, Army (GWOT)</td>
<td>15,693,068</td>
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<td>16,126,403</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7,867,349</td>
<td>5,875,015</td>
<td>5,875,015</td>
<td>-2,012,334</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Coast Guard) (by transfer) (GWOT)</td>
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<td>(181,885)</td>
<td>(181,885)</td>
<td>(+181,885)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operation &amp; Maintenance, Marine Corps (GWOT)</td>
<td>1,607,259</td>
<td>1,116,640</td>
<td>1,116,640</td>
<td>-490,619</td>
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<td>Operation &amp; Maintenance, Air Force (GWOT)</td>
<td>10,566,598</td>
<td>10,266,295</td>
<td>10,266,295</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operation &amp; Maintenance, Defense-Wide (GWOT)</td>
<td>6,476,049</td>
<td>7,712,000</td>
<td>6,944,201</td>
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<td>-767,879</td>
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<td>(Coalition support funds) (GWOT)</td>
<td>(920,000)</td>
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<td>---</td>
<td>(-920,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operation &amp; Maintenance, Army Reserve (GWOT)</td>
<td>38,679</td>
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<td>24,699</td>
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<td>Operation &amp; Maintenance, Navy Reserve (GWOT)</td>
<td>26,265</td>
<td>23,980</td>
<td>23,980</td>
<td>-2,285</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operation &amp; Maintenance, Marine Corps Reserve (GWOT)</td>
<td>3,304</td>
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<td>3,367</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operation &amp; Maintenance, Air Force Reserve (GWOT)</td>
<td>57,566</td>
<td>58,523</td>
<td>58,523</td>
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<td>Operation &amp; Maintenance, Air National Guard (GWOT)</td>
<td>127,035</td>
<td>108,111</td>
<td>108,111</td>
<td>-18,924</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operation &amp; Maintenance, National Defense Restoration Fund (GWOT)</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>15,400</td>
<td>15,400</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal, Operation and Maintenance</strong></td>
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<td>Afghanistan Security Forces Fund (GWOT)</td>
<td>42,493,792</td>
<td>41,330,513</td>
<td>42,562,634</td>
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<td>+1,232,121</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counter-ISIL Train and Equip Fund (GWOT)</td>
<td>4,262,715</td>
<td>4,937,515</td>
<td>4,937,515</td>
<td>+674,800</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total, Operation and Maintenance (OOC/GWOT)</strong></td>
<td>47,736,507</td>
<td>48,037,028</td>
<td>49,269,149</td>
<td>+1,532,642</td>
<td>+1,232,121</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Procurement

| Aircraft Procurement, Army (GWOT) | 313,171 | 424,868 | 424,868 | +111,515 | --- |
| Missile Procurement, Army (GWOT)  | 405,317 | 559,283 | 557,593 | +152,266 | -1,700 |
| Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army (GWOT) | 395,944 | 1,191,139 | 1,191,139 | +795,195 | --- |
| Procurement of Ammunition, Army (GWOT) | 290,870 | 193,436 | 193,436 | -97,234 | --- |
| Other Procurement, Army (GWOT) | 1,343,010 | 402,575 | 405,575 | -397,345 | --- |
| Aircraft Procurement, Navy (GWOT) | 367,930 | 157,300 | 157,300 | -210,630 | --- |
| Weapons Procurement, Navy (GWOT) | 8,600 | 152,373 | 139,994 | +122,394 | -21,379 |
| Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps (GWOT) | 65,380 | 223,587 | 223,587 | +58,463 | -1,744 |
| Other Procurement, Navy (GWOT) | 59,786 | 250,059 | 207,994 | +108,195 | -12,075 |
| Procurement, Marine Corps (GWOT) | 118,939 | 65,274 | 64,071 | -54,868 | -1,203 |
| Aircraft Procurement, Air Force (GWOT) | 927,249 | 740,778 | 510,836 | -416,413 | -229,942 |
| Missile Procurement, Air Force (GWOT) | 235,095 | 395,400 | 381,700 | +146,605 | -13,700 |
| Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force (GWOT) | 273,346 | 501,509 | 501,509 | +228,164 | --- |
| Other Procurement, Air Force (GWOT) | 3,529,456 | 4,008,887 | 3,998,887 | +469,431 | -10,000 |
| Procurement, Defense-Wide (GWOT) | 244,184 | 518,026 | 510,741 | +266,557 | -7,285 |
| National Guard and Reserve Equipment (GWOT) | 750,000 | --- | 1,000,000 | +250,000 | +1,000,000 |
| Procurement, National Defense Restoration Fund (GWOT) | --- | --- | 6,000,000 | +6,000,000 | +6,000,000 |
| **Total, Procurement (OOC/GWOT)** | 9,368,076 | 9,701,568 | 15,462,540 | +7,094,464 | +6,700,972 |
### DIVISION A - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)

(Amounts in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research, Development, Test and Evaluation</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>119,368</td>
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<td>130,365</td>
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<td>Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide (GWOT)</td>
<td>159,919</td>
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<td>National Defense Restoration Fund (GWOT)</td>
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<td>+1,000,000</td>
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<td><strong>Total, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (OCC/GWOT)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Defense Working Capital Funds (GWOT)</td>
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<td><strong>Total, Other Department of Defense Programs (OCC/GWOT)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional transfer authority (GWOT) (Sec.9002)</td>
<td>(2,500,000)</td>
<td>(4,500,000)</td>
<td>(2,500,000)</td>
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<td>Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (GWOT) (Sec.9013)</td>
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<td>150,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (GWOT) (Sec.9017)</td>
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<td>500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rescissions (GWOT) (Sec.9019)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coalition support funds (rescission) (GWOT)</td>
<td>-11,524</td>
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<td>---</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total, General Provisions</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Grand Total, Title IX (OCC/GWOT)</strong></td>
<td>61,622,000</td>
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<td>73,934,000</td>
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*For the table, FY 2018 Request refers to the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2018, Bill vs. Enacted and Bill vs. Request indicate the change from the enacted budget of FY 2017.
## TITLE X

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS (OCO/GWOT)**

### Military Personnel

**Military Personnel, Air Force (GWOT)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>131,375</td>
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<td>-131,375</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Operation and Maintenance

- **Operation & Maintenance, Army (GWOT)**: 986,754
- **Operation & Maintenance, Navy (GWOT)**: 1,772,631
- **Operation & Maintenance, Marine Corps (GWOT)**: 255,250
- **Operation & Maintenance, Air Force (GWOT)**: 1,566,272
- **Operation & Maintenance, Defense-Wide (GWOT)**: 650,951
- **Operation & Maintenance, Navy Reserve (GWOT)**: 3,208
- **Operation & Maintenance, Air Force Reserve (GWOT)**: 115,099
- **Operation & Maintenance, Army National Guard (GWOT)**: 87,866
- **Operation & Maintenance, Air National Guard (GWOT)**: 23,000
- **Counter-ISIS Train and Equip Fund (GWOT)**: 626,400
- **Counter-ISIS Overseas Contingency Operations Transfer Fund**: 1,610,000

**Total, Operation and Maintenance OCO/GWOT Requirements**: 7,697,433

### Procurement

- **Aircraft Procurement, Army (GWOT)**: 316,784
- **Missile Procurement, Army (GWOT)**: 579,754
- **Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army (GWOT)**: 61,218
- **Procurement of Ammunition, Army (GWOT)**: 447,685
- **Other Procurement, Army (GWOT)**: 412,109
- **Aircraft Procurement, Navy (GWOT)**: 314,257
- **Weapons Procurement, Navy (GWOT)**: 129,000
- **Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps (GWOT)**: 103,100
- **Other Procurement, Navy (GWOT)**: 151,297
- **Procurement, Marine Corps (GWOT)**: 212,280
- **Aircraft Procurement, Air Force (GWOT)**: 856,820
- **Space Procurement, Air Force (GWOT)**: 19,900
- **Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force (GWOT)**: 70,000
- **Other Procurement, Air Force (GWOT)**: 1,335,381
- **Procurement, Defense-Wide (GWOT)**: 510,635

**Total, Procurement OCO/GWOT Requirements**: 5,520,220

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This table outlines the detailed appropriations for the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, FY 2018, focusing on Title X, which includes additional funding for military personnel and operations and maintenance, as well as procurement details for various branches of the military. The values provided are in thousands, reflecting the enacted amounts, requests, and the differences between the two.
## DIVISION A - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)
(Amounts in thousands)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
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<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
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<tr>
<td>Research, Development, Test and Evaluation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Research, Development, Test &amp; Evaluation, Army (GWOT)</td>
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<td>Revolving and Management Funds</td>
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<td>Other Department of Defense Programs</td>
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<td>Chemical Agents and Munitions Destruction, Defense</td>
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<td>TITLE X General Provisions</td>
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<td>Additional transfer authority (GWOT) (Sec.10002)</td>
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<td>(250,000)</td>
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<td>Total, Title X (OCO/GWOT)</td>
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### OTHER APPROPRIATIONS

SECURITY ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

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<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
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<td>Military Personnel (OCO/GWOT)</td>
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<td>Total, Other Appropriations</td>
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<td>---</td>
<td>-5,775,000</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

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Grand Total, Bill | 591,980,267 | 622,149,276 | 650,437,519 | +58,457,252 | +28,286,243 |
| Appropriations | (513,555,692) | (558,214,406) | (577,404,900) | +63,849,206 | +19,190,494 |
| Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) | (83,179,791) | (63,934,870) | (74,521,613) | +8,658,176 | +10,586,743 |
| Rescissions | (3,924,692) | --- | (-901,381) | (+3,023,311) | (-901,381) |
| Rescissions (GWOT) | (-830,524) | --- | (-587,613) | (+242,911) | (-587,613) |
| (Transfer Authority) | 4,664,375 | 5,156,519 | 4,656,519 | -7,856 | -500,000 |
| (Transfer Authority) (GWOT) | 2,750,000 | 4,500,000 | 2,500,000 | -250,000 | -2,000,000 |

---
### CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET Recap

#### Scorekeeping adjustments:

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
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<td>Lease of defense real property (permanent)</td>
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<td>38,000</td>
<td>38,000</td>
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<td>8,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
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<td>-15,000</td>
<td>-15,000</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-defense function</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>---</td>
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<tr>
<td>DHP, O&amp;M to DOD-VA Medical Facility Demonstration Fund (Sec. 8090):</td>
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<td>-115,519</td>
<td>+6,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-defense function</td>
<td>122,375</td>
<td>115,519</td>
<td>115,519</td>
<td>-6,856</td>
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<tr>
<td>O&amp;M, Defense-wide transfer to Department of the Interior</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Defense function</td>
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<td>-123,900</td>
<td>-123,900</td>
<td>+123,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-defense function</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-123,900</td>
<td>-123,900</td>
<td>-123,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navy transfer to John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Development Fund:</td>
<td></td>
<td>6,953,000</td>
<td>8,145,000</td>
<td>+1,192,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defense function</td>
<td>-1,000</td>
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<td>+1,000</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-defense function</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-1,000</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tricare accrual (permanent, indefinite auth.) 3/</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total, scorekeeping adjustments</td>
<td>6,998,000</td>
<td>8,191,000</td>
<td>8,191,000</td>
<td>+1,193,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RECAPITULATION**

| Title I - Military Personnel                                               | 128,725,978     | 133,881,636     | 132,977,586  | +4,251,608      |
| Title II - Operation and Maintenance                                        | 167,803,260     | 188,570,298     | 191,654,065  | +24,080,805     |
| Title III - Procurement                                                     | 108,426,827     | 113,906,877     | 132,501,445  | +24,074,618     |
| Title IV - Research, Development, Test and Evaluation                      | 72,301,587      | 82,710,636      | 82,654,976   | +10,353,399     |
| Title V - Revolving and Management Funds                                    | 1,511,013       | 2,095,923       | 1,586,596    | +74,965         |
| Title VI - Other Department of Defense Programs                             | 35,615,831      | 35,869,136      | 36,084,999   | +499,166        |
| Title VII - Related Agencies                                               | 1,029,586       | 1,046,000       | 1,036,100    | +6,504          |
| Title VIII - General Provisions (net)                                       | -5,583,692      | 128,900         | -1,992,248   | +3,591,444      |
| Title IX - Global War on Terrorism (GWOT)                                   | 61,822,000      | 63,934,870      | 73,934,000   | +12,112,000     |
| Title X - Additional Appropriations                                         | 14,752,267      | ---             | ---          | -14,752,267     |
| Total, Department of Defense                                               | 586,205,267     | 622,149,276     | 650,437,519  | +64,232,252     |
| Other appropriations (PL 114-254)                                           | 5,775,000       | ---             | ---          | -5,775,000      |
| Scorekeeping adjustments                                                    | 6,998,000       | 8,191,000       | 8,191,000    | +1,193,000      |
| Total mandatory and discretionary                                            | 598,978,267     | 630,340,276     | 658,828,519  | +59,650,252     |

1/ Included in Budget under Operation and Maintenance  
2/ Included in Budget under Procurement  
3/ Contributions to Department of Defense  
Medicare-Eligible Retiree Health Care Fund  
(Section 725, P.L. 108-375). Budget request excludes proposal to amend TRICARE.
### Title I - Legislative Branch

#### House of Representatives

**Payment to Widows and Heirs of Deceased Members of Congress (FY17 PL 114-223, Sec.142)1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. FY 2018 Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>174</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-174</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Salaries and Expenses

**House Leadership Offices**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. FY 2018 Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Speaker</td>
<td>6,645</td>
<td>6,645</td>
<td>6,645</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of the Majority Floor Leader</td>
<td>2,180</td>
<td>2,180</td>
<td>2,180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of the Minority Floor Leader</td>
<td>7,114</td>
<td>7,114</td>
<td>7,114</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of the Majority Whip</td>
<td>1,887</td>
<td>1,887</td>
<td>1,887</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of the Minority Whip</td>
<td>1,460</td>
<td>1,460</td>
<td>1,460</td>
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<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican Conference Counsel</td>
<td>1,505</td>
<td>1,505</td>
<td>1,505</td>
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<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Caucus</td>
<td>1,487</td>
<td>1,487</td>
<td>1,487</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Subtotal, House Leadership Offices**

|                | 22,278          | 22,278          | 22,278 | ---                     | ---                      |

**Members' Representational Allowances Including Members' Clerk Hire, Official Expenses of Members, and Official Mail**

|                | 562,632         | 567,000         | 562,632 | ---                     | -4,368                   |

#### Committee Employees

**Standing Committees, Special and Select**

|                | 127,053         | 129,062         | 127,053 | ---                     | -2,009                   |

**Committee on Appropriations (including studies and investigations)**

|                | 23,271          | 23,226          | 23,276  | -45                     | ---                      |

**Subtotal, Committee employees**

|                | 150,324         | 152,288         | 150,279 | -45                     | -2,009                   |

#### Salaries, Officers and Employees

**Office of the Clerk**

|                | 26,268          | 28,421          | 27,945  | +1,677                  | -476                     |

**Office of the Sergeant at Arms**

|                | 15,505          | 18,076          | 20,505  | +5,000                  | +2,429                   |

**Office of the Chief Administrative Officer**

|                | 117,165         | 133,635         | 127,165 | +10,000                 | -6,470                   |

**Office of the Inspector General**

|                | 4,963           | 5,037           | 4,998   | +5                      | -69                      |

**Office of General Counsel**

|                | 1,444           | 1,492           | 1,492   | +48                     | ---                      |

**Office of the Parliamentary Counsel**

|                | 1,999           | 2,037           | 2,037   | +36                     | ---                      |

**Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House**

|                | 3,167           | 3,261           | 3,299   | +38                     | -52                      |

**Office of the Legislative Counsel of the House**

|                | 8,979           | 9,437           | 9,437   | +456                    | ---                      |

**Office of Interparliamentary Affairs**

|                | 814             | 816             | 814     | ---                     | -2                       |

**Other authorized employees**

|                | 1,183           | 584             | 584     | -599                    | ---                      |

**Subtotal, Salaries, officers and employees**

|                | 161,487         | 202,796         | 198,156 | +16,669                 | -4,640                   |

#### Supplies, Materials, Administrative Costs and Federal Tort Claims

|                | 3,625           | 3,625           | 3,625   | ---                     | ---                      |

#### Official Mail for Committees, Leadership Offices, and Administrative Offices of the House

|                | 190             | 190             | 190     | ---                     | ---                      |

#### Government Contributions

|                | 245,354         | 251,630         | 233,940 | -11,794                 | -18,090                  |

#### Transition Activities

|                | 16,217          | 16,186          | 16,186  | -31                     | ---                      |

#### Wounded Warrior Program

|                | 2,084           | 2,273           | 2,273   | +189                    | ---                      |

#### Office of Congressional Ethics

|                | 2,500           | 2,500           | 2,500   | ---                     | ---                      |

#### Miscellaneous Items

|                | 1,658           | 1,699           | 1,670   | +12                     | -2                       |

**Subtotal, Allowances and expenses**

|                | 272,328         | 278,825         | 269,704 | -11,624                 | -18,121                  |

**Total, House of Representatives (discretionary)**

|                | 1,189,049       | 1,223,187       | 1,194,049 | +5,000                 | -29,138                  |

**Total, House of Representatives (mandatory)**

|                | 174             | ---             | -174     | ---                     | ---                      |
### DIVISION B - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)  
(Amounts in thousands)

<table>
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<th></th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>3,838</td>
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<td>Office of Congressional Accessibility Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subtotal, Capitol Power Plant</td>
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<td>108,205</td>
<td>106,694</td>
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<td>-45,085</td>
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<td>33,249</td>
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<td>-20,928</td>
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<td>13,400</td>
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<td>Capitol Visitor Center</td>
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<td>Subtotal, Architect of the Capitol</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>457,017</td>
<td>504,260</td>
<td>464,209</td>
<td>+7,192</td>
<td>+40,051</td>
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<td>Authority to spend receipts</td>
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<td>-6,350</td>
<td>-6,350</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal, Salaries and expenses</td>
<td>450,667</td>
<td>497,910</td>
<td>457,859</td>
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<td>+40,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copyright Office, Salaries and expenses</td>
<td>68,825</td>
<td>77,709</td>
<td>72,011</td>
<td>+3,186</td>
<td>-5,698</td>
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<tr>
<td>Authority to spend receipts</td>
<td>-39,548</td>
<td>-38,864</td>
<td>-41,305</td>
<td>-1,757</td>
<td>-2,441</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prior year obligated balances</td>
<td>-6,179</td>
<td>-7,429</td>
<td>-2,260</td>
<td>+3,159</td>
<td>+5,169</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subtotal, Copyright Office</td>
<td>23,098</td>
<td>31,416</td>
<td>28,446</td>
<td>+5,348</td>
<td>-2,970</td>
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<tr>
<td>Congressional Research Service, Salaries and expenses</td>
<td>107,945</td>
<td>119,279</td>
<td>111,474</td>
<td>+3,529</td>
<td>-7,805</td>
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<tr>
<td>Books for the blind and physically handicapped, Salaries and expenses</td>
<td>50,248</td>
<td>52,815</td>
<td>50,248</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-2,567</td>
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<tr>
<td>Copyright Office funding flexibility information technology (Sec.1153(b)) (CBO estimate)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total, Library of Congress</td>
<td>631,958</td>
<td>703,420</td>
<td>648,027</td>
<td>+16,069</td>
<td>-55,393</td>
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</table>
### GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
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<tr>
<td>Congressional publishing</td>
<td>79,736</td>
<td>79,528</td>
<td>79,528</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Information Programs of the Superintendent of</td>
<td>Public Documents, Salaries and expenses</td>
<td>29,500</td>
<td>29,000</td>
<td>29,000</td>
<td>-500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government Publishing Office Business Operations</td>
<td>Revolving Fund</td>
<td>7,832</td>
<td>8,540</td>
<td>8,540</td>
<td>+708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total, Government Publishing Office</td>
<td>117,068</td>
<td>117,068</td>
<td>117,068</td>
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### GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and expenses</td>
<td>567,856</td>
<td>614,478</td>
<td>568,306</td>
<td>+450</td>
<td>-46,172</td>
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<tr>
<td>Offsetting collections</td>
<td>-23,350</td>
<td>-23,800</td>
<td>-23,800</td>
<td>-450</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total, Government Accountability Office</td>
<td>544,506</td>
<td>590,678</td>
<td>544,506</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER TRUST FUND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payment to the Open World Leadership Center (OWLC)</td>
<td>5,600</td>
<td>5,800</td>
<td>5,800</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-200</td>
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</table>

### JOHN C. STENNIS CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stennis Center for Public Service</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>430</td>
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</table>

### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scorekeeping adjustment (CBO estimate) 2/</td>
<td>-1,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-2,000</td>
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### OTHER SCOREKEEPING ADJUSTMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AOC House Office Buildings Fund (PL114-254)(CBO estimate)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-4,000</td>
<td>-4,000</td>
<td>-4,000</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand total (including scorekeeping adjustments)</td>
<td>3,480,590</td>
<td>3,800,464</td>
<td>3,580,416</td>
<td>+99,826</td>
<td>-220,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory 1/</td>
<td>(3,480,416)</td>
<td>(3,800,464)</td>
<td>(3,580,416)</td>
<td>(+100,000)</td>
<td>(-220,048)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discretionary</td>
<td>(174)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>(-174)</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1/ FY2017 funds provided in Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 114-223)
2/ FY2017 is Sec. 175 of Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 114-254)
### RECAPITULATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>House of Representatives (discretionary)</td>
<td>1,169,049</td>
<td>1,223,187</td>
<td>1,194,049</td>
<td>+5,000</td>
<td>-20,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House of Representatives (mandatory)</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-174</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint Items</td>
<td>19,566</td>
<td>20,654</td>
<td>19,940</td>
<td>+375</td>
<td>-714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capitol Police</td>
<td>393,300</td>
<td>422,307</td>
<td>422,500</td>
<td>+29,200</td>
<td>+193</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of Compliance</td>
<td>3,959</td>
<td>4,056</td>
<td>3,959</td>
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<td>-97</td>
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<tr>
<td>Congressional Budget Office</td>
<td>46,500</td>
<td>49,945</td>
<td>48,500</td>
<td>+2,000</td>
<td>-1,445</td>
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<tr>
<td>Architect of the Capitol</td>
<td>529,481</td>
<td>672,919</td>
<td>581,837</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library of Congress</td>
<td>631,958</td>
<td>703,420</td>
<td>646,027</td>
<td>+16,069</td>
<td>-55,393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Publishing Office</td>
<td>117,068</td>
<td>117,068</td>
<td>117,068</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Accountability Office</td>
<td>544,506</td>
<td>590,678</td>
<td>544,506</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-46,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open World Leadership Center</td>
<td>5,600</td>
<td>5,800</td>
<td>5,800</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stennis Center for Public Service</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Provisions 2/</td>
<td>-1,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-2,000</td>
<td>-1,000</td>
<td>-2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Scorekeeping adjustments</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-4,000</td>
<td>-4,000</td>
<td>-4,000</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand total</td>
<td>3,460,590</td>
<td>3,806,464</td>
<td>3,560,416</td>
<td>+99,826</td>
<td>-226,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discretionary</td>
<td>(3,460,416)</td>
<td>(3,800,464)</td>
<td>(3,580,416)</td>
<td>(+100,000)</td>
<td>(-220,048)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory 1/</td>
<td>(174)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>(-174)</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1/ FY2017 funds provided in Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 114-223)
2/ FY2017 is Sec. 175 of Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 114-254)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title I - Department of Defense</th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill vs. FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. FY 2018 Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military Construction, Army</td>
<td>513,459</td>
<td>929,394</td>
<td>+410,535</td>
<td>+3,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps</td>
<td>1,021,580</td>
<td>1,618,065</td>
<td>+596,485</td>
<td>+56,540</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military Construction, Air Force</td>
<td>1,491,058</td>
<td>1,738,796</td>
<td>+247,738</td>
<td>+198,322</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military Construction, Defense-Wide</td>
<td>2,025,444</td>
<td>3,114,913</td>
<td>+789,469</td>
<td>+323,664</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total, Active components</strong></td>
<td>5,051,541</td>
<td>7,390,766</td>
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<td>+576,943</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military Construction, Army National Guard</td>
<td>232,930</td>
<td>210,652</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military Construction, Air National Guard</td>
<td>143,957</td>
<td>161,481</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military Construction, Army Reserve</td>
<td>68,230</td>
<td>73,712</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military Construction, Navy Reserve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military Construction, Air Force Reserve</td>
<td>188,950</td>
<td>63,535</td>
<td>-125,415</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total, Reserve components</strong></td>
<td>672,664</td>
<td>574,061</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program</td>
<td>177,932</td>
<td>154,000</td>
<td>-23,932</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical demilitarization construction, Defense-Wide</td>
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<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Defense Base Closure Account</td>
<td>240,237</td>
<td>255,867</td>
<td>290,867</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total, Military Construction</strong></td>
<td>8,142,374</td>
<td>8,375,296</td>
<td>7,857,285</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Housing Construction, Army</td>
<td>157,172</td>
<td>182,662</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Army</td>
<td>325,995</td>
<td>346,625</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Housing Construction, Navy and Marine Corps</td>
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<td>83,682</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Air Force</td>
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<td>59,157</td>
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<tr>
<td>DoD Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>623</td>
<td>623</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total, Family Housing</strong></td>
<td>1,276,289</td>
<td>1,407,155</td>
<td>1,407,155</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Administrative Provisions**

- **Military Construction, Army (Sec. 126) (rescission)**: -29,802 | --- | -10,000 | +19,802 | -10,000
- **Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps (H. Sec. 126) (rescission)**: --- | --- | -10,000 | -10,000 | ---
- **Military Construction, Air Force (Sec. 127) (rescission)**: -51,460 | --- | --- | +51,460 | ---
- **Military Construction, Defense-Wide (Sec. 126) (rescission)**: -141,600 | --- | -27,440 | +114,160 | -27,440
- **Military Construction, Defense-Wide - Planning and Design (Sec. 127)**: -30,000 | --- | --- | +30,000 | ---
- **Military Construction, Army (Sec. 125)**: 40,500 | --- | 43,800 | +3,300 | +43,800
- **Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps (Sec. 125)**: 227,099 | --- | 126,900 | -100,199 | +126,900
- **Military Construction, Air Force National Guard (Sec. 125)**: 41,800 | --- | 41,800 | +41,800 | +41,800
- **Military Construction, Army National Guard (Sec. 125)**: 67,500 | --- | 56,000 | -11,500 | +56,000
- **Military Construction, Army Reserve (Sec. 125)**: 30,000 | --- | 56,000 | +26,000 | +56,000
- **NATO Security Investment Program (Sec. 127)**: -30,000 | --- | --- | +30,000 | ---
- **42 USC 3374 (Sec. 128)**: -25,000 | --- | --- | +25,000 | ---
- **Military Construction, Air Force (Sec. 125)**: 149,500 | --- | 70,300 | -79,200 | +70,300
- **Military Construction, Air National Guard (Sec. 125)**: 11,000 | --- | --- | -11,000 | ---
- **Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps (Sec. 125)**: 89,400 | --- | --- | -89,400 | ---
- **Military Construction, Air Force Reserve (Sec. 125)**: --- | --- | 44,100 | +44,100 | +44,100
- **NATO Security Investment Program (Sec. 126)**: --- | --- | -25,000 | -25,000 | -25,000
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Housing Construction, Army (Sec. 126)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-18,000</td>
<td>-18,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Housing Construction, Navy and Marine Corps (Sec. 126)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-8,000</td>
<td>-8,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Housing Construction, Air Force (Sec. 126)</td>
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<td>---</td>
<td>-20,000</td>
<td>-20,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total, Administrative Provisions: 307,337
Appropriations: (614,999) (-439,000) (-175,999) (+439,000)
Rescissions: (-307,662) (-118,440) (+189,222) (-118,440)

Total, Title I, Department of Defense: 7,726,000
Appropriations: (8,033,662) (9,782,451) (9,703,440) (+1,669,778) (-79,011)
Rescissions: (-307,662) (-118,440) (+189,222) (-118,440)

---

TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Veterans Benefits Administration

Compensation and pensions:
Advance from prior year: (86,083,128) (90,119,449) (90,119,449) (+4,036,321) ---
Subtotal, current year: 86,083,128 90,119,449 90,119,449 (+4,036,321) ---
Advance appropriation, FY 2019: 90,119,449 95,768,462 95,768,462 (+5,649,013) ---

Readjustment benefits:
Advance from prior year: (16,340,828) (13,708,648) (13,708,648) (-2,632,180) ---
Subtotal: 16,340,828 13,708,648 13,708,648 (-2,632,180) ---
Advance appropriation, FY 2019: 13,708,648 11,832,175 11,832,175 (-1,876,473) ---

Veterans insurance and indemnities:
Advance from prior year: (91,920) (107,899) (107,899) (+15,979) ---
Current year request: 16,605 12,439 12,439 (-4,166) ---
Subtotal: 108,525 120,338 120,338 (+11,813) ---
Advance appropriation, FY 2019: 107,899 109,090 109,090 (+1,191) ---

Veterans housing benefit program fund:
Limitation on direct loans: (500) (500) (500) --- ---
Administrative expenses: 198,856 178,626 178,626 (-20,230) ---

Vocational rehabilitation loans program account:
Limitation on direct loans: (2,517) (2,356) (2,356) (-161) ---
Administrative expenses: 389 385 385 (-6) ---

Native American veteran housing loan program account: 1,163 1,163 1,163 --- ---
General operating expenses, VBA: 2,856,160 2,844,000 2,894,000 (+37,840) (+50,000)

Total, Veterans Benefits Administration: 107,009,205 110,766,380 110,766,380 (+3,757,175) (+50,000)
Appropriations: (3,073,206) (3,038,853) (3,086,853) (+13,444) (+50,000)
Advance appropriations, FY 2019: (103,935,996) (107,709,727) (107,709,727) (+3,773,731) ---

Advances from prior year appropriations: (102,515,876) (103,935,996) (103,935,996) (+1,420,120) ---

Veterans Health Administration

Medical services:
Advance from prior year: (51,673,000) (44,886,554) (44,886,554) (-6,786,446) ---
Current year request: 1,078,993 1,031,808 1,031,808 (-47,185) ---
### CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

**July 26, 2017**

**DIVISION C - MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES**

**APPROPRIATIONS ACT. FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)**

(Amounts in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. FY 2018 Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Supplemental funding for opioid abuse prevention**  
(P.L. 115-31) | 50,000 | --- | --- | -50,000 | --- |
| Medical Services (Sec. 217) (recission) | -7,246,181 | --- | --- | +7,246,181 | --- |
| **Subtotal** | 45,555,812 | 45,918,362 | 45,918,362 | +362,550 | --- |

1/ Funding for opioid abuse prevention was included in the FY17 supplemental. In FY18, it is provided within the amount recommended by the Committee.

**Medical community care:**

| Advance from prior year | Current year request | (6,524,000) | (6,654,480) | (6,654,480) | (+130,480) | --- |
| Current year request | --- | 284,397 | 284,397 | +284,397 | --- |
| **Subtotal** | 6,524,000 | 6,938,877 | 6,938,877 | +414,877 | --- |
| Advance appropriation, FY 2019 | 6,654,480 | 7,239,156 | 7,239,156 | +584,676 | --- |

**Medical support and compliance:**

| Advance from prior year | Current year request | (5,074,000) | (5,434,880) | (5,434,880) | (+360,880) | --- |
| Current year request | --- | 1,079,795 | 1,079,795 | +832,127 | --- |
| **Subtotal** | 5,074,000 | 6,514,675 | 6,514,675 | +1,193,075 | --- |
| Advance appropriation, FY 2019 | 5,434,880 | 5,914,288 | 5,914,288 | +479,408 | --- |

**Medical facilities:**

| Medical and prosthetic research | 675,366 | 640,000 | 698,228 | +22,862 | +58,228 |

**Medical care cost recovery collections:**

| Offsetting collections | -2,637,000 | -2,507,000 | -2,507,000 | +130,000 | --- |
| Appropriations (indefinite) | 2,637,000 | 2,507,000 | 2,507,000 | -130,000 | --- |
| **Subtotal** | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

**DoD-VA Joint Medical Funds (transfers out):**

| (-274,731) | (-297,137) | (-297,137) | (-22,406) | --- |

**DoD-VA Joint Medical Funds (by transfer):**

| (274,731) | (297,137) | (297,137) | (+22,406) | --- |

**DoD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund (Transfer out):**

| (-15,000) | (-15,000) | (-15,000) | --- | --- |

**DoD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund (by transfer):**

| (15,000) | (15,000) | (15,000) | --- | --- |

**Total, Veterans Health Administration:**

| 68,437,059 | 73,689,313 | 74,047,541 | +5,610,482 | +58,228 |

**Appropriations, (by transfer):**

| (2,052,927) | (3,299,000) | (3,348,228) | (+1,296,291) | (+58,228) |

**Advance appropriations, FY 2019:**

| (85,385,032) | (70,699,313) | (70,699,313) | (+4,314,750) | --- |

**Advances from prior year appropriations:**

| (63,271,000) | (66,385,032) | (66,385,032) | (+3,114,032) | --- |

**National Cemetery Administration:**

| 286,193 | 306,193 | 306,193 | +20,000 | --- |

**Departmental Administration:**

| General administration | 345,391 | 346,891 | 346,891 | +1,500 | --- |
| Board of Veterans Appeals | 156,096 | 155,596 | 156,096 | --- | +500 |
| Information technology systems | 4,278,259 | 4,055,500 | 4,135,500 | -142,759 | +80,000 |
| Office of Inspector General | 160,106 | 159,806 | 159,106 | --- | +500 |
| Construction, major projects | 528,110 | 512,430 | 410,530 | -117,580 | -101,900 |
### CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

**July 26, 2017**

**DIVISION C - MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES**

**APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)**

*(Amounts in thousands)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction, minor projects</td>
<td>372,069</td>
<td>342,570</td>
<td>342,570</td>
<td>-29,499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants for construction of State extended care facilities</td>
<td>90,000</td>
<td>90,000</td>
<td>90,000</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants for the construction of veterans cemeteries</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total, Departmental Administration</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,975,031</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,707,593</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,686,693</strong></td>
<td><strong>-288,338</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Administrative Provisions</strong></td>
<td><strong>-232,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>40,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>-471,160</strong></td>
<td><strong>-239,160</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total, title II</strong></td>
<td><strong>181,475,488</strong></td>
<td><strong>190,789,479</strong></td>
<td><strong>190,365,847</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,809,039</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Advance Appropriations, FY 2019</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mandatory</strong></td>
<td><strong>(103,935,996)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(107,709,727)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(107,709,727)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(+3,773,731)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advances from prior year appropriations</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mandatory</strong></td>
<td><strong>(102,515,876)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(103,935,996)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(103,935,996)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(+1,420,120)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Discretionary</strong></td>
<td><strong>(63,271,000)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(66,385,032)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(66,385,032)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(+3,114,032)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net discretionary</strong></td>
<td><strong>(77,022,887)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(83,067,313)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(82,643,481)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(+5,120,959)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net mandatory</strong></td>
<td><strong>(102,515,876)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(103,935,996)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(103,935,996)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(+1,420,120)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total mandatory and discretionary</strong></td>
<td><strong>175,541,362</strong></td>
<td><strong>182,701,467</strong></td>
<td><strong>182,777,635</strong></td>
<td><strong>+5,336,299</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TITLE III - RELATED AGENCIES**

- **American Battle Monuments Commission**
  - Salaries and expenses | 75,100 | 75,100 | 75,100 | --- |
  - Foreign currency fluctuations account | --- | --- | --- | --- |
  - **Total, American Battle Monuments Commission** | 75,100 | 75,100 | 75,100 | --- |

- **U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims**
  - Salaries and expenses | 30,945 | 33,608 | 33,600 | +2,655 |

- **Department of Defense - Civil**
  - Salaries and expenses | 70,800 | 70,800 | 78,800 | +8,000 |

- **Armed Forces Retirement Home - Trust Fund**
  - Salaries and expenses | 41,300 | 41,300 | 41,300 | --- |
  - Capital program | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | --- |

---

*Note: Bill vs. Request values are the differences between the proposed bill and the enacted amounts.*
### Division C - Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

**Appropriations Act, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)**

(Amounts in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payment from General Fund</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>22,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total, Armed Forces Retirement Home</td>
<td>64,300</td>
<td>64,300</td>
<td>64,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total, Title III</td>
<td>241,145</td>
<td>243,808</td>
<td>251,800</td>
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</table>

#### Title IV - Overseas Contingency Operations

**Overseas Contingency Operations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Army</th>
<th>---</th>
<th>124,000</th>
<th>131,458</th>
<th>+131,458</th>
<th>+7,458</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Additional funding for planning and design (P.L. 115-31)</td>
<td>39,500</td>
<td>---</td>
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<td>-39,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navy</td>
<td>38,409</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>13,390</td>
<td>-25,019</td>
<td>+13,390</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional funding for construction (P.L. 115-31)</td>
<td>66,708</td>
<td>---</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>105,117</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>13,390</td>
<td>-91,727</td>
<td>+13,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Force</td>
<td>11,440</td>
<td>207,200</td>
<td>275,522</td>
<td>+264,082</td>
<td>+68,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional funding for construction (P.L. 115-31)</td>
<td>93,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-93,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>104,440</td>
<td>207,200</td>
<td>275,522</td>
<td>+171,082</td>
<td>+68,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defense-Wide</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>22,400</td>
<td>+22,400</td>
<td>+22,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army National Guard</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>22,400</td>
<td>+22,400</td>
<td>+22,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional funding for planning and design (P.L. 115-31)</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-12,000</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air National Guard</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>-13,000</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional funding for construction (P.L. 115-31)</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-13,000</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army Reserve</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>-10,000</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional funding for planning and design (P.L. 115-31)</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-10,000</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy Reserve</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>4,525</td>
<td>-4,525</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional funding for construction (P.L. 115-31)</td>
<td>4,525</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-4,525</td>
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<tr>
<td>Air Force Reserve</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>-9,000</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional funding for planning and design (P.L. 115-31)</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-9,000</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>297,582</td>
<td>331,200</td>
<td>442,770</td>
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<td>+111,570</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Reassurance Initiative</td>
<td>---</td>
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<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
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<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td>16,900</td>
<td>15,700</td>
<td>15,700</td>
<td>-3,200</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy</td>
<td>21,400</td>
<td>18,500</td>
<td>18,500</td>
<td>-2,900</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Force</td>
<td>66,280</td>
<td>270,830</td>
<td>159,130</td>
<td>+90,850</td>
<td>-111,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional funding for planning and design (P.L. 115-31)</td>
<td>12,300</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-12,300</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>88,580</td>
<td>270,830</td>
<td>159,130</td>
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<td>-111,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defense-Wide</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>1,900</td>
<td>+1,900</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Provision</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>+12,300</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Construction, Air Force (Sec. 101, P.L. 115-31) (rescission)</td>
<td>-12,300</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>+12,300</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>113,580</td>
<td>306,930</td>
<td>195,230</td>
<td>+81,650</td>
<td>-111,700</td>
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</table>
### DIVISION C - MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES
#### APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)

(Amounts in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Counterterrorism Support</td>
<td>8,571</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-8,571</td>
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</table>

**Total, title IV.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand total</td>
<td>419,733</td>
<td>638,130</td>
<td>638,000</td>
<td>+218,267</td>
<td>-130</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Appropriations**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Air Force</td>
<td>(19,638,267)</td>
<td>(22,406,698)</td>
<td>(22,311,819)</td>
<td>(+2,673,552)</td>
<td>(+94,879)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rescissions</td>
<td>(-516,662)</td>
<td>(-518,412)</td>
<td>(-1,750)</td>
<td>(-516,412)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rescission of OCO</td>
<td>(-12,300)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>(+12,300)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advance appropriations, FY 2019</td>
<td>(170,321,028)</td>
<td>(178,409,040)</td>
<td>(178,409,040)</td>
<td>(+8,088,012)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas contingency operations</td>
<td>(432,033)</td>
<td>(638,130)</td>
<td>(638,000)</td>
<td>(+205,967)</td>
<td>(-130)</td>
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</table>

**Advances from prior year appropriations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(By transfer)</td>
<td>(289,731)</td>
<td>(312,137)</td>
<td>(312,137)</td>
<td>(+22,406)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Transfer out)</td>
<td>(-289,731)</td>
<td>(-312,137)</td>
<td>(-312,137)</td>
<td>(-22,406)</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Limitation on direct loans)</td>
<td>(3,017)</td>
<td>(2,856)</td>
<td>(2,856)</td>
<td>(-161)</td>
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### TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE - CIVIL

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Corps of Engineers - Civil

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investigations</td>
<td>121,000</td>
<td>86,000</td>
<td>105,000</td>
<td>-16,000</td>
<td>+10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>1,876,000</td>
<td>1,020,000</td>
<td>1,697,000</td>
<td>-179,000</td>
<td>+677,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi River and Tributaries</td>
<td>362,000</td>
<td>253,000</td>
<td>301,000</td>
<td>-61,000</td>
<td>+48,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operation and Maintenance</td>
<td>3,149,000</td>
<td>3,100,000</td>
<td>3,519,000</td>
<td>+370,000</td>
<td>+419,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulatory Program</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program</td>
<td>112,000</td>
<td>118,000</td>
<td>118,000</td>
<td>+6,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies</td>
<td>32,000</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>32,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-3,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>181,000</td>
<td>185,000</td>
<td>181,000</td>
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<td>-4,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)</td>
<td>4,764</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>4,764</td>
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</table>

Total, title I, Department of Defense - Civil Appropriations: 6,037,764 (5,002,000) (6,157,764) (+120,000) (+1,155,764)

### TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

#### Central Utah Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
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<tr>
<td>Central Utah Project Completion Account</td>
<td>10,500</td>
<td>8,983</td>
<td>8,983</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bureau of Reclamation</td>
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<td>---</td>
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<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water and Related Resources</td>
<td>1,155,894</td>
<td>960,017</td>
<td>1,091,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Valley Project Restoration Fund</td>
<td>55,606</td>
<td>41,376</td>
<td>41,376</td>
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<tr>
<td>California Bay-Delta Restoration</td>
<td>36,000</td>
<td>37,000</td>
<td>37,000</td>
<td>+1,000</td>
<td>---</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy and Administration</td>
<td>59,000</td>
<td>59,000</td>
<td>59,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total, Bureau of Reclamation</td>
<td>1,306,500</td>
<td>1,097,393</td>
<td>1,229,166</td>
<td>-77,334</td>
<td>+131,773</td>
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</table>

Total, title II, Department of the Interior Appropriations: 1,317,000 (1,106,376) (1,238,149) (-78,851) (+131,773)

### TITLE III - DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

#### Energy Programs

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy</td>
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<td>636,149</td>
<td>1,103,908</td>
<td>-986,292</td>
<td>+467,759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability</td>
<td>230,000</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>218,500</td>
<td>-11,500</td>
<td>+98,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuclear Energy</td>
<td>880,000</td>
<td>570,000</td>
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### Division D - Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies

**Appropriations Act, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)**

*Amounts in thousands*

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#### Atomic Energy Defense Activities

**National Nuclear Security Administration**

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#### Environmental and Other Defense Activities

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### DIVISION D - ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

**APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)**

(Amounts in thousands)

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1/ Totals adjusted to net out alternative financing costs, reimbursable agreement funding, and power purchase and wheeling expenditures. Offsetting collection totals only reflect funds collected for annual expenses, excluding power purchase wheeling.
Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Typically, the Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, Energy and Water, and Defense bills would be debated and amended by the full House, individually. Regrettably, this week we have only $780 billion in so-called security minibus in just 2 hours for some reason other than necessity. Substantive amendments chosen by the discretion of the chairman of the Rules Committee will be debated for all 12 bills, which received bipartisan support in the Rules Committee to unilaterally reject Republican amendments for 10 minutes. We also expect $1.6 billion in border wall funding to be added by a rules gimmick meant to prevent an up-or-down vote on the wall.

The undemocratic maneuver by the Rules Committee to unilaterally remove Congresswoman BARBARA LEE’s amendment to debate a new AUMF, which received bipartisan support in the committee, is simply outrageous. All the promises of Republican leadership of returning to regular order have been broken.

Mr. CHAIR. The time of the gentleman, Mr. S. MOFFETT.

Mr. MOFFETT. Mr. Chair, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the former chairman of the full committee and now the chairman of the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee.

Mr. MOFFETT. Mr. Chair, thank you for yielding the time. Congratulations to you on your maiden voyage in this role that you are occupying—very expertly, I might add. During the forced march that we undertook in the committee for the last 3 weeks, clearing all 12 bills through the full committee in a historically record time, we had a good drill sergeant, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thank you for doing a great job.

We held 74 oversight and budget hearings, heard from over 400 witnesses, with the overarching goal that each of the 12 bills we passed out of our committee addressed the needs of our constituents. I am proud to say that these bills do just that—advance our national defense and secure our borders, take care of our veterans, provide critical infrastructure funding, increase resources to combat terrorism and pandemic, maintain our presence as a leader in global diplomacy—all the while maintaining fiscal discipline.

I am disappointed that we won’t consider all 12 of these bills before the August recess, but this security package is an important step forward. It will ensure that we, as the Congress, uphold our most sacred responsibility to provide for our Nation’s common defense.

Under the previous administration, our Department of Defense faced needless uncertainty. I am proud that we are now turning the tide, providing our troops and their commanders with the necessary resources to respond to threats from countries like Russia, China, and Iran, as well as crush the violent extremists who wish to do us harm.

As promised to the American people, we are rebuilding and modernizing our military as an international powerhouse, with ready, trained, and equipped troops, strengthening counterterrorism efforts, and reestablishing confidence with our allies. At a time when our enemies continue to advance around the globe, the U.S. must remain at the forefront of military readiness and advanced technology to strengthen national defense at home and abroad.

This bill also maintains our commitment to those brave men and women after their service has come to a close, providing for greater oversight and accountability at the VA and modernizing electronic health records to help our veterans receive the high quality of care they deserve.

I am also pleased that this legislation includes the Energy and Water Appropriations bill, which funds many of our national security interests and builds upon our country’s essential infrastructure needs. In particular, this bill protects the Appalachian Regional Commission from proposed elimination, and ensures that its critical programs will continue in our closest Appalachian coal communities.

Since 1965, ARC has led efforts to innovate, partner, and invest in the region to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth. These investments have led to the creation of thousands of new jobs. It has improved local water and sewer systems, improved our schools, increased access to healthcare, and provided critical assistance to emerging businesses. After 8 years of strangulation by regulation in the Obama administration’s war on coal, Appalachia needs the ARC now more than ever.

Mr. Chairman, thank you again for allowing me to speak on behalf of this bill. Is it everything we wanted? No. It is critical that we prioritize our national security, and that is what this bill does.

Mr. CHAIR. The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) is recognized for 4 minutes.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I reserve the balance of my time.

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important programs in the bill, most notably the Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy.

Too many here in Washington have been fooled by the rhetoric that poses a false choice between the environment and our energy independence. But, today, 288,000 Americans work in auto industry supply chain jobs manufacturing the parts that make vehicles cleaner and more fuel efficient. In addition, 360,000 people work in the solar industry. The single fastest growing job in America is wind turbine technician. An investment in clean energy is an investment in American jobs and our future.

The response of this bill? An 80 percent cut from the Vehicle Technologies Office—now that is a backwards move;

A 60 percent cut to solar energy—one of the fastest growing job sectors in our country;

A 60 percent cut to wind energy; and

ARPA-E, the most complex new energy technologies, zero; the program is eliminated.

These cuts cede the future to offshore competitors who are hacking into our intellectual property and the bank accounts of firms involved in these industries hundreds of times a month trying to coopt their energy technology that American taxpayers have helped to develop.

In an era where Wall Street chases short-term quarterly profits and ever-improving earnings reports, we owe it to our constituents and to our progeny to play the long-game—making investments that may take decades to pay off, but they will. The long horizon in large initial capital investments of the energy sector for America means that, more than any other, path-breaking energy research needs Federal support until it becomes commercially viable because energy research is complex.

Though energy is an overlooked ingredient in economic supremacy, those nations that master its dimensions are leading in economic growth.

For decades, American Presidents have made statements targeting energy independence. That makes national security sense. But this year, that target is finally in sight. A recent Energy Information Administration report expects the United States to be a net energy exporter by 2026. The Department of Energy deserves great credit for bringing us to this point.

Beginning back in the old 1970s and eighties when this all got started, it took 30 years of Department of Energy support in concert with the private sector to unleash the fracking revolution that has helped change our world dramatically. Where was that technology developed? In the Department of Energy, and it didn’t happen in year one or two. It took years. The next revolution will be the clean energy revolution. We must not forfeit that game.

Finally, I would like to raise my concerns over the controversial riders that threaten not only the ultimate enactment of this bill, but also our most precious resource: water. Exempting the repeal of the Clean Water Rule from the Administrative Procedure Act cedes much authority to the executive branch and is something that I cannot support.

For that reason, and for the draconian cuts to clean energy, I must urge my colleagues to oppose the Energy and Water Development spending package. When those concerns are rolled together with busting the spending caps and building an expensive border wall that doesn’t keep us safe or solve our immigration needs, I believe that there is no excuse for any Democrat to support the overall bill before us.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) who is the chair of the Defense Subcommittee.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Chairman, today we consider the Make America Secure Appropriations Act which includes the Defense Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2018. I ask all Members for their support of this very important legislation.

Congress’ number one responsibility is to provide for the defense of this Nation. It is this bill that fulfills that most fundamental constitutional duty. This is urgent because the world is more dangerous and unstable than any time in recent history.

North Korea is increasing the frequency of their missile tests, threatening American soil and our allies. On the Fourth of July, they launched an intercontinental ballistic missile. Russia continues to create instability in Ukraine, the Baltics, and the Balkans. They recklessly support and protect a brutal and brutalizing tyrant who has murdered thousands of Syrian men, women, and children. These actions hinder our fight against ISIS.

China is militarizing the South China Sea and modernizing their military at an alarming pace. Just this week, Chinese fighter jets flew close to a U.S. reconnaissance aircraft in an aggressive and dangerous manner. Iran is increasing its influence in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen, and they remain committed to using their nuclear program as a nuclear weapons program. An Iranian vessel pursued a U.S. Navy ship at a high speed in the Persian Gulf, forcing our ship to fire warning shots to halt the aggression.

Meanwhile, ISIS and al-Qaeda terrorists continue to spread their perverted version of Islam across Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

All of our adversaries are acting in an aggressive and emboldened manner. We must ensure that the U.S. military is prepared to confront these threats. This can only be done by reversing the years of budget instability, sequestration, and continuous cuts.

Since becoming chair, I have made it my priority to listen first and foremost to our defense and intelligence experts, and this bill before you reflects their expert advice. This bill provides Secretary of Defense Mattis the resources he needs to rebuild our military and forge a new era of defense technology.

It has been an honor to work with my ranking member, Mr. VISCLOSKY, who has played a valuable role in this process. I want to thank Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Ranking Member LOWEY, and my colleagues on the Defense Subcommittee for their involvement and their contributions.

I would also like to thank the staff of the Defense Subcommittee: Jennifer Miller, Sherry Young, Walter Hearne, Brooke Boyer, B.G. Wright, Adrienne Ramsay, Allison Deters, Cornell Teague, Collin Lee, and Matt Bower; as well as Rebecca Leggieri, Jennifer Chartrand, and Chris Bigelow on the minority staff.

To the personal staff, I thank Johnnie Kaberle, Jason Schenck, Joe DeVooght, and Adam Kahnke.

In closing, I must remind the House of Joint Chief of Staff Chairman Dunford’s words when he told us that “without sustained, sufficient, and predictable funding, I assess that within 5 years we will lose our ability to project power; the basis of how we defend the homeland, advance U.S. interests, and meet our alliance commitments.”

If this doesn’t happen, the bill includes $39.6 billion above the President’s request for a National Defense Restoration Fund. We must keep this funding intact.

We need to heed Secretary Mattis warning and give our military what it needs—no less. This is not a partisan issue. Again, I ask all my colleagues for their support.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 6 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) who is the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Homeland Security.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chairman, it is difficult to understand how a Make America Secure Appropriations minibus does not include the bill for the Department of Homeland Security which is responsible for security at our borders, security in the coastal maritime environment, security for air and surface transportation, security for cyberspace and critical infrastructure, and helping State and local jurisdictions prepare for, prevent, and respond to terrorist attacks and natural disasters.

Instead of including the entire DHS funding bill in the minibus, the majority is expected to use a second rule to insert just one part of that bill—funding for the President’s border wall—ignoring much more pressing and immediate national security needs.

Furthermore, because the Department has failed to submit to Congress a required report laying out the long-term plan and justification for border
infrastructure. Members of Congress are unable to responsibly evaluate the long-term border security strategy and comprehensively assess its costs, benefits, and trade-offs.

Given this enormous $1.6 billion initial price tag, Members should, at a minimum, have the opportunity to vote on it separately and in the context of the entire Homeland Security bill. I submitted an amendment to prohibit the use of funds for border wall construction, and I hope the Rules Committee will make it in order.

While I do not support the DHS bill in its current form, I firmly believe the House would be in a stronger position to make an informed and responsibly decision on how best to invest these $1.6 billion in the context of debating and amending the entire Department of Homeland Security funding bill.

For example, instead of using $1.6 billion of taxpayer money for just 74 miles of border wall, we could pay for the first two heavy Coast Guard icebreakers which are critically needed to help the United States better counter the ever-increasing Russian presence in the Arctic.

Or we could invest in additional technology and hire thousands of new customs officers at every air, land, and sea port of entry in the United States, reducing wait times for travelers, better facilitating the flow of commerce and contributing to economic growth.

This would also enhance our ability to intercept more illegal narcotics and other dangerous drugs, contrary to what some may think, the vast majority of the worst illicit drugs flowing into our country arrive through the ports of entry, not between the ports. In 2016, 96 percent of the heroin and 81 percent of the cocaine and methamphetamine came through the ports of entry. In other words, more physical barriers at the border—in addition to the 651 miles of fencing already in place—would not only be misused and ineffective strategy to address drug smuggling.

In addition to the fact that we could be using these $1.6 billion for more pressing security needs, I am concerned that, by including only border wall funding from the DHS Appropriations bill, we would be sending a terrible message to frontline homeland security personnel—many of whom routinely put their personal safety at risk to serve our country—that the President’s border wall is more important to our security than the $1 billion more they did for the Department of Energy.

Mr. Chairman, I urge a “no” vote on this bill.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) who is the chair of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee on Appropriations.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, it is my distinct honor to bring the fiscal year 2018 Energy and Water bill before you today.

Before I go into the details, I would like to recognize Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN. It is because of his leadership and unwavering commitment to the appropriations process that our committee has managed to bring 12 bills through the full committee process and have them ready for consideration by the House.

I would also like to thank Ranking Members LOWEY and KAPITUR. As always, their thoughtful approach to issues has made our job easier.

The bill totals $37.6 billion, which is $209 million less than last year’s level and $3.2 billion above the request.

Increases over last year are targeted to those areas where they are needed most: to provide for our Nation’s defense and support our Nation’s infrastructure.

The bill provides strong support for the Department of Energy’s national defense programs. Weapons activities is funded at $10.24 billion, up $921 million from last year’s level, to keep our Nation’s nuclear deterrent reliable and effective.

This increase will fully fund the ongoing stockpile life extension programs and will make substantial progress toward addressing the continued deterioration of infrastructure across the enterprise. The recommendations for Naval Reactors is $1.49 billion, and in- cludes full funding for the Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine, formerly referred to as the Ohio-class replacement.

Additionally, the bill provides funding increases across the Department of Energy to defend against cyber attacks and, within Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, to strengthen energy sector cybersecurity preparedness, response, and recovery.

This bill addresses the critical infrastructure work of the Army Corps of Engineers, providing a total of $6.2 billion, an increase of $120 million more than last year.

This recommendation makes full use of all annual revenues from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund.

The harbor maintenance trust fund accounts for $1.34 billion, which is $40 million more than fiscal year 2017, an increase of $375 million above the budget request, and the same as the WRDA target.

The bill provides $141 million more than last year for flood and storm damage reduction activities.

This is a responsible bill, one that makes some difficult choices in order to prioritize the most critical Federal programs. As a result, as has been mentioned already, this bill eliminates the Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy—or ARPA–E, as it is known—and the title 17 loan guarantee program of the Department of Energy, as proposed by the President.

I realized some people are concerned about that. These are programs that I happen to like also. But this is what happens when you are $20 trillion in the hole and you have to make tough choices. And that is what the Appropriations Committee is doing: making some of the difficult choices that we have to make.

This bill includes a number of targeted investments above the budget request to ensure a secure, independent, and prosperous energy future.

Mr. Chairman, this is a strong bill that will protect our national security interests, address our most pressing infrastructure needs, and advance our economy. I urge everyone to support it.

I would like to thank the staff of the Energy and Water Committee, both ranking and minority members, and of this full committee for the work they have done in making sure we can get this bill to the floor.

Again, I urge Members to support this bill.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), the distinguished ranking member of the Subcommittee on Legislative Branch.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, while I rise to oppose this appropriations package, even though the Legislative Branch division of this package is worthy of our support, I commend Chairman YODER both for the product and for the way he reached across the aisle to work with me and other members of our committee and the minority in this process.

For all of their hard work, I would also like to thank Liz Dawson, who is the team; Jennifer Sierzchula, Tim Monahan from the Legislative Branch minority staff; Joe Eannello from Chairman YODER’s office; Adam Berg on the minority staff; and Anne Sokolov and Ryan Keating on my team.

This year’s Legislative Branch appropriations bill would, among other things, allow us to catch up on some deferred maintenance in our buildings; invest in information technology to modernize the Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service, and Copyright Office; and adjust to the new cybersecurity environment faced here in the United States Congress.

I am also pleased to see that this bill provides additional funding for the Sergeant at Arms and the Capitol Police to increase congressional security in the wake of the tragic shooting at our congressional baseball practice several months back.

Our goal is to give them the resources they need to maintain the security on the Capitol campus and increase their coverage of Members and
gatherings of Members that might be targeted. It is the responsibility of the House to look out for our safety and the safety of our constituents and staff, and the funding included in this bill is a step in the right direction.

There are things I hope we can improve: the bill moves forward. For example, I would like to see more money for personnel at the Library and CRS, not just for information technology; and more for the Government Accountability Office, which is flat-funded. Because of inflation, GAO will have 200 fewer employees than expected at the end of the year.

GAO’s audits and investigations root out waste, fraud, and abuse in government, something that we all agree upon here should be done. With the Trump administration resisting all of this oversight, GAO is more important today than it ever has been.

While I would support the Legislative Branch bill, it came to the floor on its own, unfortunately, we are not considering it on its own.

I oppose tying $1.6 billion of wasted taxpayer money for President Trump’s border wall to the Legislative Branch bill. It is an example of a bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform, which would include smarter, more effective enforcement of our laws.

A few years ago, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said immigration reform would reduce our deficit by $900 billion and increase real GDP growth by over 3 percent. But simply building a ridiculous wall that faces opposition from both Democrats and Republicans won’t do anything for our economy, and it isn’t even a cost-effective way to strengthen our economy.

Besides, we were told repeatedly over the course of the last 18 months that Mexico would pay for the wall. They would ask the President: Who is going to pay for the wall? Mexico is going to pay for the wall.

Why is there a single dime of American taxpayer money for a border wall that President Trump promised Mexico would finance?

I oppose the Republicans’ partisan budget strategy. By refusing to work with Democrats on a bipartisan budget deal that raises the Budget Control Act caps, Republicans are seriously risking some combination of sequestration, stopgap funding bills, government shutdown, and a catastrophic default on our national debt.

Nondefense discretionary spending is one-sixth of the Federal budget. Having already cut it to the bone, they are now sawing off the limbs.

The Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill; the Transportation bill; and the Financial Services bill that funds consumer protections and regulation of big banks will all see big cuts because of the deficit caps.

Today’s package will squeeze out investments in our infrastructure, jobs programs, early childhood education, scientific research, and all the things that need to be priorities. We are turning our backs on working families across the country who depend on these programs every day.

We all believe in the free market system. We all believe in capitalism. We all want to reward risk-takers and provide a good environment for growth for those men and women who will make the investments to hire the workers. But capitalism is not a perfect system. It is the responsibility of this bill that we need to fund to make sure that we grow the entire economy, that we have sustained growth, we invest in education, we invest in research, and we invest in transportation infrastructure, in order for us to grow the economy.

As former Appropriations Chairman David Obey used to say, those programs were about “knocking the rough edges off of capitalism.” On this side of the aisle, we believe making those investments is best for the economy. That is what we have to do.

We need to fund defense, veterans programs, and the legislative branch of government. But that can’t come at the expense of everything else.

Mr. FLELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT), chairman of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee on Appropriations.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, the Appropriations Act before you today includes, in division C, appropriations for Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for Fiscal Year 2018. Division C is exactly the same as the MILCON-VA bill reported favorably out of the full committee on June 15.

Thanks to the leadership of Chairman RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN from New Jersey, Ranking Member NITA LOWEY from New York, and the partnership of Ranking Member DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ from Florida, this will provide necessary funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs and military construction projects. We were able to include the vast majority of the subcommittee’s over 1,000 Member requests.

This division demonstrates our firm commitment to fully supporting our Nation’s veterans and servicemembers.

The President’s budget request for fiscal year 2018 supports the Administration’s comprehensive strategy for strengthening our Nation’s veteran care by ensuring the Department of Veterans Affairs has the tools and support needed to serve every veteran, and that the investments to hire the workers.

This funding meets DOD’s most critical needs, including priority projects and family housing, including base and overseas contingency operations funding, an increase over last year’s level and $197 million below the President’s request.

This division includes funding for military medical facilities. It provides $249 million for Department of Defense education facilities for construction of renovation of four schools. It supports our Guard and Reserves through $575 million for facilities in 22 States. It also funds military medical facilities with $1.4 billion. It provides $178 million for the NATO Security Investment Program, which is $24 million over the President’s request, to deal with increasing threats and necessary investments overseas.

We were able to also include an additional $2.6 billion in unfunded priorities, which are priority projects that were not included in the budget request. It is very important to many Members of this body.

On Veterans Affairs, the legislation includes a total of $78.3 billion in discretionary funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs. That is a $3.9 billion increase, or 5 percent, above fiscal year 2017 level. It is the highest level of VA funding ever provided.

On VA medical care, the bill funds it at $69 billion, the full request, including an additional $2.6 billion beyond the advanced appropriations to cover unanticipated needs. Many Members expressed concerns about the medical care issues, and were able to fully fund the budget request for mental health services at $8.4 billion; suicide prevention outreach at $186 million; homeless veterans treatment, services, housing, and job training at $7.3 billion; opioid abuse and addiction at $26 billion.

In that in the omnibus last year—rural health initiatives at $250 million; and caretaker stipends at $604 million.
We repeat last year’s bill language regarding improved standards for the suicide prevention hotline. For disability claims processing, again another issue very important to so many Members in this body, but particularly to our colleagues who are seeking services from the VA, our benefits, we provide $2.9 billion, which is $50 million over the request. As the number of disability applications increases, we need to be vigilant to be sure that the claim backlog doesn’t reappear.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, this legislation also contains $65 million, as requested, as VA switches gears and moves from modernizing its own aging electronic health records. Enabling the VA to upgrade to a system that DOD is using. The bill continues to include language restricting most of the funding until the VA meets milestones and certifies interoperability to meet statutory requirements.

Our bill increases the request for VA research funding by $58 million, to a total of $698 million, recognizing strong congressional interest in the VA’s research to combat devastating conditions like PTSD and traumatic brain injury.

In major construction, we continue oversight of those projects, holding back funding until it has contracted for outside management.

In closing, I ask Members to support this important piece of legislation. It is very important to our servicemembers, our veterans, and their families.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Democratic leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman from New York, the distinguished ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, for yielding, and more importantly, for her great leadership to advance the values of our country in allocation of resources. And I always admire the work of Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, our distinguished chairman, as well. We may have a matter of disagreement here today, though.

Mr. Chair, all of us, Members of Congress, all elected officials, people who serve, take a solemn oath to support and defend the Constitution, and that is an oath to protect the American people.

Democrats, indeed all Americans, believe in a strong national defense. We believe in strong investments in our defense and in our brave men and women in uniform, in particular.

But far from strengthening our security, the falsely inflated numbers in this spending bill will create uncertainty for our military and hollow out America’s communities at home.

We face serious threats in the world. We know that. Those threats demand serious consideration in Congress. We should be making serious decisions about our national security mission. What is our mission? What are the resources that we need?

We don’t want to spend more money, but we don’t want to spend less, and you should not be possible in the Defense bill with false numbers and no real answers about the mission that these dollars would fund.

We do not give certainty to our defense or our troops when we legislate with phony numbers when we refuse to make honest choices about our Defense budget.

Instead of giving certainty to our heroes in uniform, this bill would breach the sequester spending limit by more than $70 billion, forcing a mandatory 13 percent cut to all Defense accounts.

These phony numbers in this bill not only do violence to our Defense budget, they starve the strength of America by ransacking our domestic investments.

In order to be the strongest possible America, we must measure our strength not only in our military might, but in the health, education, and well-being of the American people.

And that is what the problem is, that we are funding our domestic budget with phony numbers for the Defense budget, which will be because of the sequester cut to the Defense accounts by 13 percent as we starve our domestic investments.

Besides the direct danger this bill poses to our military, it is laden with poison pills. It would squander billions of taxpayer dollars on President Trump’s immoral, ineffectual, and expensive border wall.

The President said, during the campaign, he said: ‘I promise a wall.’ No. He promised a wall that Mexico would pay for. He said it would cost $4 billion to $5 billion. The fact is it could cost as much as $30 billion, $40 billion, and he wants a down payment for that wall in this bill—one poison pill.

It also eliminates ARPA-E, the advanced energy research vital to our energy independence and to our national security to keep America the innovator superpower of the 21st century.

Democrats will continue to demand real leadership to strengthen our national defense.

Mr. Chair, on this day, July 26, 1948, President Harry Truman signed the executive order desegregating the U.S. military. How great that was for America. How great it is for our country to benefit from the service of so many people who had been serving all along but now with dignity and respect, which was justified.

So how said it is on this same day that the President of the United States, 69 years ago, recognized the value of respecting our men and women in uniform, that the Commander in Chief, that’s who we are of the United States, fired 15,000 courage men and women in uniform in a vile, hateful tweet. His actions regarding transgenders in the military were unworthy of their bravery and unworthy of the American people.

Let us be thankful for the blessings of all of our men and women in uniform, our veterans who have served us, and our military families to whom we owe so much. Their courage, their service, their leadership, and their sacrifice are what truly makes us the land of the free and the home of the brave, and it insists that we be serious and real and evidence-based as we make decisions about how we invest in the security of our country.

Mr. Chair, I urge a ‘no’ vote.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. YODER), the chairman of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee on Appropriations.

Mr. YODER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to speak in favor of the bill before us, paying particular attention to the work of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee.

I first want to thank my colleagues, Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and Ranking Member LOWEY, for their leadership; and Ranking Member RYAN, who has been a gentleman and a scholar, for working with me to develop this product. Also, representatives from opposite sides of the line can work together and create a model bipartisanism to build great legislation for the American people.

Our total recommendation for the fiscal year 2018 Legislative Branch is $3.58 billion. In this bill, we focused on Capitol improvements, better security, more transparency and accountability in a fiscally responsible manner.

First and foremost, Mr. Chairman, the House continues to lead by example in its frugal operations. With this bill, we will be spending 12 percent below the 2010 levels, showing the American people fiscal discipline starts here in our House operations first.

We also continue our policy of denying pay increases to Members of Congress for the eighth fiscal year in a row. This Republican Congress has tightened its belt since taking the majority, and we have never allowed a pay increase for Members of Congress, and we aren’t allowing one today, saving taxpayers over $68 million since 2011.

In light of the recent shooting where Republican Members of Congress were targeted for their beliefs and our colleagues and majority whip, Steve Scalise, was seriously wounded, this bill takes new focus on the security related to Congress, and I would like to recognize the United States Capitol Police Special Agents Crystal Griner and David Bailey.

As I will know in this body, the U.S. Capitol Police protect us, our staff, and the more than 9 million visitors we get here each year with bravery, putting their lives on the line each and every day to keep us safe. Special Agents Griner and Bailey put that heroism on display for the country and the world when they saved numerous Members of Congress from an
attack at practice where some 25 of our colleagues were preparing for the Congressional Baseball Game for Charity. Their courage under fire saved the lives of countless Members of Congress, staff, and innocent bystanders, and both women and wounded while carrying out their duties.

STEVE SCALISE, Matt Mika, and Zack Barth, who were also injured that day, and everyone else on that baseball field, are alive today because of those Capitol Police officers, and we continue to wish a speedy recovery to everyone who has been injured.

We, as a Congress, owe it to the Capitol Police to ensure they have the necessary resources to meet their mission in an increasingly polarized climate. And after working with Mr. RYAN, we believe we have appropriately prioritized those needs, taking a comprehensive approach to ensuring the safety and security of not only Members of our staff, visitors, and the constituents we serve.

We provide resources and make structural changes that will address security concerns both here at the Capitol and in our home districts, including $29 million in new resources to the Capitol Police for increased security, $5 million to the House Sergeant at Arms for district office security, and support for House Administration’s authorization to increase $25,000 per MRA account to address Members’ physical security when they are away from the Capitol complex. We also invest new resources in cybersecurity measures to protect attacks on our digital information.

After more than 20 hearings, briefings, and tours of various portions of the Capitol complex since January, we have included $581 million in total for the Architect of the Capitol. We recognize the continuing challenge of preserving and maintaining our infrastructure and prioritizing critical projects in the current fiscal climate.

We have included funding to restore and upgrade our office buildings, upgrade the Capitol Power Plant, and several other projects. We fund a Reutilization Fund to finance major repairs and renovations to facilities in the House for future years, and we are planning to try and save costs.

Overall, we provided $648 million for the Library of Congress, with new funding going to IT improvements library-wide, as well as specific copyright initiatives.

In total, we provided $48.5 million for the CBO. Members of this body on both sides of the aisle have their differences in opinion with CBO estimates and how it arrives at those conclusions. In some cases, CBO is wrong but, at the end of the day, it serves an important purpose and needs the appropriate resources to do its job.

We also increased funding for the Government Accountability Office to ensure that they root out fraud, waste, and abuse in government.

Mr. Chair, in crafting this project, Ranking Member RYAN and I sought the thoughtful feedback of Members throughout this committee and this body. There are various initiatives we can all be proud of, initiatives that serve our constituents and produce efficiencies and transparency in the way that Congress operates, including increasing overall transparency and producing efficiencies by publishing nonconfidential CRS reports online, expanding the Wounded Warrior Project, which helps Members hire veterans. We increased total slots by more than 57 percent.

In conclusion, in all, this bill represents a frugal approach at funding the basic operations of Congress. We do so in a fiscally responsible manner, keeping House budgets historically low and prohibiting pay increases in Congress. We are improving transparency and accountability at the same time.

I would like to thank Ranking Member RYAN and his staff, Anne Sokolov and Adam Berg, as well as my staff, Tim Monahan, Jenny Panone, and Joe Eannello, and to all the members of the subcommittee for their work and participation in the process this year.

Mr. Chair, I urge this body support this legislation.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I served actively on the Appropriations Committee for 23 years. I am still a member on leave. Never, in the 36 years that I have been here, have I seen an omnibus appropriation bill or a minibus appropriation bill brought to the floor before the August break.

Regular order is to bring each bill to the floor, debate each bill on its merit, have the opportunity to offer amendments, and debate the merits of the amendments and of that particular bill. However, the majority party has not done its job, and I do not hold accountable the members of the Appropriations Committee. I want to make that clear.

But, for whatever reasons, regular order has not been followed, and so each Member of the Congress of the United States is confronted with either voting for all of the bill with component parts, the Legislative bill, Energy and Water, MILCON-VA, Defense bill, that they may not like, but if they vote ‘no’, they will be accused of being against the security of the United States. That, my friends, is baloney.

In their pledge to America, Republicans said: ‘We will advance major legislation one issue at a time.’ This belies that representation. The sponsors of this minibus package, Mr. Chair, claim it will make America more secure. I reject that argument.

Senior military leaders have said that the greatest long-term threat to our national security is the growing national debt and the impact of interest payments on the debt as they crowd out our ability to invest in defense and domestic priorities.

It is incumbent upon us, Mr. Chairman, to work together to pass a fiscally responsible budget agreement that lifts the sequester caps in a way consistent with the principle of parity between defense and nondefense spending.

Mr. Chairman, we were supposed to pass a budget on or before April 15. It is now July 26. We have passed no budget. There is no plan for overall spending. This, therefore, is a pig in a poke, and nobody on the floor or in this country knows the ramifications of the passage of this bill on the eight domestic spending bills that remain unattended.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. It is incumbent upon us, Mr. Chairman, to work together to pass a fiscally responsible budget agreement that lifts the sequester caps. We cannot simply skip to appropriations without determining what our budget priorities are first. It is as critical for our national defense as it is for our ability to support economic growth.

Moreover, this is the earliest, as I have said before, that I can ever remember that the House considered either an omnibus or a minibus appropriations bill. It is an acknowledgement by the majority that the House will not be able to move these bills through under regular order, given Republicans’ internal divisions over spending bills. So instead of working with Democrats to craft individual appropriations bills that can pass the House, they are resorting to legislative tactics to push them through on partisan votes.

I will remind my friends across the aisle that they have been unable to enact a single funding bill in the past 7 years without ultimately appealing to Democratic votes. So I urge my colleagues to reject this minibus package and make it clear that we first ought to negotiate a budget agreement that provides certainty and clarity to the entire Federal Government, not just a handful of agencies. And we ought to do it through an open and transparent process, with Members permitted to offer amendments that can shape a budget and appropriations bills truly reflective of the Nation’s priority as a whole.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote ‘no’ so that we can get on with an appropriations process that is in regular order that makes common sense, that is transparent, and that will give the American public the best product that we can produce.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSSEN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CALVERT), the chairman of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee on Appropriations.
Mr. CALVER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3219, the Make America Secure Appropriations Act.

First, I would like to commend Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN for his tireless work and leadership in our Appropriations bills in the Appropriations Committee. He did it in record time and deserves a great deal of credit for getting us to this point today. The four bills included in H.R. 3219 reflect hours of hearings, staff work, Member input, and bipartisan cooperation.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the chairs and ranking members of the Defense; Energy and Water Development; and Legislative Branch Subcommittees. In particular, the Energy and Water division provides robust funding for water infrastructure—over $67 million—to create needed water storage in the West. I want to thank Chairman SIMPSON and his staff for their hard work.

As a member of the Defense Subcommittee on Appropriations, I thank Chairwoman KAY GRANGER for her leadership and unwavering support of our men and women in uniform. I also would be remiss if I did not mention the professional staff of the subcommittee, who dedicated countless hours to craft a bill that meets the needs of the Department of Defense and reflects the will of Congress.

Our greatest responsibility as Members of Congress is to provide for the resources necessary to the men and women of our Armed Forces. This bill includes $363.2 billion in base defense funding and $73.9 billion for overseas contingency operations. It provides for a 2.4 percent military pay raise and additional funding to increase end strength.

The bill provides robust funding for shipbuilding, aviation, combat vehicles, and more. It invests in our greatest assets, the men and women who wear the uniform, through increased funds through training, equipment, and the best healthcare.

We are at a crossroads. Right now, our military continues to operate at high tempo to carry out the national security interests of the United States. However, in order to meet the next challenge, they may be, we must invest now. We know the situation we are in.

National Security Advisor McMaster has stated that the U.S. is outraged and outgunned by potential adversaries. Out of the 58 brigade combat teams of the Army only has 3 that are combat ready.

We have the lowest number of ships since World War I. And while capability is important, the vast oceans of the world desperately need our presence.

Only 7 out of 10 aircraft in the Air Force are ready to fly, and the average age of aircraft across the service is 27 years. Airmen are flying the same planes as their grandfathers. Only 43 percent of the Marine Corps total aircraft inventory is considered flyable. Our marines deserve better.

Today we have a chance to correct the deficit we have created for the last 8 years. The U.S. Constitution creates a government of the people to “establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense.” This bill fulfills the promise enshrined in this provision to secure the blessings of liberty by providing for the defense of our Nation.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I am delighted to yield 6 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I thank the distinguished ranking member for yielding me time and for his hard work during this arduous process. And I would also like to thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and Chairman DENT for their hard work as well.

As we all know, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies bill has a strong reputation for common ground and bipartisanism. Chairman DENT, like always, set a cooperative tone and was inclusive throughout this process. He has worked tirelessly to address many Members’ concerns, and I joined him in that effort, as well as critical issues impacting our veterans and Active and Reserve servicemembers.

The Military Construction portion of this minibus provides adequate funding for both the Active and Reserve components. In addition, the bill funds the NATO Security Investment Program at the FY17 level, sending a strong message to our Nation’s allies that we stand with and will continue to face evolving international threats.

For the Department of Veterans Affairs, this bill provides $3.9 billion, which is a 5.3 percent increase over FY 2017.

I am also pleased that this bill will address the issue of breast cancer awareness and prevention and provides almost $700 million for medical research, which will fund essential efforts, such as those to address TBI and PTSD, post-traumatic stress, injury that impacts their fertility.

The bill also continues to fund important programs to combat veteran homelessness, provide our vets with fertility treatments and timely healthcare, and improve the veteran benefits application process and appeals process.

I am also extremely grateful for Chairman DENT’s support for in vitro fertilization and coverage for assisted reproductive technologies for veterans who have sustained a service-connected injury that impacts their fertility. This issue is very important to me and to so many servicemembers. All veterans deserve to be able to start families. Moreover, providing access to IVF is consistent with the VA’s goals to support veterans and improve their quality of life.

As a personal note, this bill will also address the issue of breast cancer awareness and prevention.

This past spring, our subcommittee visited the Washington VA Medical Center. We learned that the VA was relying on the controversial USPSTF guidance on mammography in making coverage decisions.

Last Congress, we passed a law that barred private insurers from making coverage decisions based on these guidelines through 2018. However, the moratorium did not apply, we learned in that visit to the VA, and so women in their forties who were veterans could be denied coverage for mammograms. To its credit, the VA changed its guideline regarding screening, and Chairman DENT and his staff worked to include language is included to hold the VA to this better standard.

As I stated during my testimony before the Rules Committee, Mr. Chairman, it is my sincere belief that if the Mexico-VA bill were being considered as a stand-alone, as is tradition, under an open rule, it would receive strong bipartisan support. But, unfortunately, that is not what we are doing here today.

Instead of following regular order, we, instead, are taking up four bills at once and adding funds to begin construction on President Trump’s irresponsible border wall that he promised Mexico would pay for, and now taxpayers are being stuck with the bill. This fiscally and morally irresponsible expenditure leaves the nondefense appropriations bills grossly underfunded.

Furthermore, contrary to popular belief, this bill isn’t even great for defense. All this talk about making sure that we provide adequate resources for our defense and our national security ignores the fact that the Budget Control Act provides additional funds that would ultimately be sequestered without a cap adjustment. This minibus would breach this cap by more than $72 billion, resulting in a mandatory 13.2 percent sequester of all defense accounts, including the Military Construction title.

Just the way, I have said this repeatedly each time I have spoken on this legislation, and never once has anyone in the majority countered what I am suggesting. That is deeply troubling.

So even if this bill is signed into law, which it will not be, DOD would not receive one dollar of this increase.

Secretary Mattis testified “seques- tration and the continued use of continuing resolutions would result in a steady erosion of military readiness.” This is the only outcome this bill guarantees. By taking up this minibus today, we are setting ourselves up for failure, and we have set ourselves up
July 26, 2017

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

for an early fall with no real progress to be made on the FY 2018 appropriations bills.

Mr. Chairman, we cannot continue to govern in this fashion. I believe it is time that we stop listening to the most extreme voices and get past these unrealistic beliefs that we can cut our way to prosperity. We cannot. If this failed philosophy persists, our work will only get more difficult.

It is clear that passing any appropriations bill that will be signed into law will require a bipartisan majority of both Houses. As a result of this irresponsible posture, I will sadly be voting against the minibus, and I look forward to working on an approach that product that both parties can work on together in true bipartisan tradition.

Mr. Chairman, lastly, before I close, I thank our staff in the MILCON–VA bill on both the majority and the minority side: Maureen Holohan, Sarah Young, Sue Quantius, Sean Snyder, and Tracey Russell with the majority; and Matt Washington, Rosalyn Kumar, and Jonathan Steinberg with the minority.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PALAZZO), a valuable member of the committee.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Make America Secure Appropriations Act.

As a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee, I have witnessed firsthand the hard work that Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and his subcommittee members have done in crafting this bill. They all should be congratulated for their work on this legislation, and so should their staffs.

I firmly believe that the number one constitutional responsibility of Congress is to provide for the common defense of this Nation against all enemies, both domestic and foreign. That commitment, by increasing defense funding and restoring the cuts and budget caps that threaten our military readiness and our ability to project force around the globe, is honored here today.

Our bill also honors those who serve our country in the Armed Forces by giving them a much-deserved 2.4 percent pay raise and making critical investments in equipment and training that help them perform the missions we give them and, most importantly, help them return home safely to their loved ones and their families and communities. This includes 11 Navy ships, including two destroyers for our Navy and a new LHA for our Marines. And I am proud to say that some of these ships will be built in my district by the greatest shipbuilders on Earth.

The bill also honors the service of our veterans. Our commitment doesn’t stop when our men and women in uniform stop serving. We must continue to support them after they leave service, and that means just that, providing mental healthcare, care for homeless veterans, and other national priorities.

In addition, this bill makes critical investments in our Nation’s border security, including fully funding the President’s request for a physical barrier construction along our southern border. The President has promised this funding, the American people want this funding, and this House is making good on that promise—after all, border security is national security.

Mr. Chairman, this is a solid bill. It honors our commitments, it keeps Americans safe and fulfills our obligation to all those who serve this great country.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support the underlying legislation.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY), a valued member of the Subcommittee on Defense.

Mr. VISCLOSKY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for yielding to me.

Mr. Chairman, I, first of all, thank Chairwoman GRANGER. This is her first time leading the Defense Appropriations bill on the floor. She has done so under very difficult circumstances, with a steadfast commitment to maintaining the tradition of cooperative bipartisanship on our subcommittee, maintaining transparency, and taking a thoughtful approach to solving problems.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to express my immense gratitude to Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN, Ranking Member LOWEY, the members of our subcommittee, and our exceptional staff for all of their hard work.

Mr. Chairman, we have a duty to provide predictable and timely appropriations to the Department of Defense and the rest of the Federal Government. This is a consistent request by our senior Defense leaders. However, the House bills exceed the cap of fiscal year 2018 defense spending established under the Budget Control Act of 2011 by $72.5 billion.

If enacted as written and the budget control caps remain in place, the Department of Defense would face a sequestration of roughly 13 percent. The Department has still not recovered from the last time it was forced to deal with sequestration in 2013. In the second half of that fiscal year, the Department savaged its operations and maintenance accounts to continue ongoing contingency operations and to protect military personnel accounts. This resulted in the Navy idling an aircraft carrier at a pier in Norfolk, the Army canceling training rotations, and the Air Force reducing flight times for its combat aircraft, and widespread civilian furloughs. We simply cannot allow that to happen again in fiscal year 2018.

We have avoided sequestration in the last 4 fiscal years by adjusting the budget caps for both defense and non-defense appropriations. Those modest adjustments, done in a bipartisan and bicameral fashion, provided needed funding for our military, but also for our country’s economic and physical infrastructure, scientific research, public health, and care for our military personnel and their families.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, I would like, again, simply to reiterate my thanks to the members of our subcommittee and committee, and for our sterling staff who have done a superb job under the most difficult circumstances that I could imagine.

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Mr. Chairman, in closing, I would like, again, simply to reiterate my thanks to the members of our subcommittee and committee, and for our sterling staff who have done a superb job under the most difficult circumstances that I could imagine.
Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE), a strong supporter of national defense.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN for yielding to me, and I thank him for his tremendous leadership of the appropriations committee. New Jersey and, indeed, the entire Nation are fortunate to have Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN as chairman of this critical committee.

Undoubtedly, the chairman’s leadership, all spending bills have advanced out of the committee, and now, today, we consider a package that affirms one of Congress’ most important responsibilities: to provide for the common defense.

Included in this legislative package is an important measure that opens reports by the Congressional Research Service and opens those reports to the public. I have been involved in this issue for some time. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and subcommittee Chairman YODER for their support of this measure.

American taxpayers spend more than $100 million a year supporting the work of the Congressional Research Service. Their findings, reports, and analyses should be public information. It is good public policy to allow educators, students, members of the news media, and everyday citizens across the Nation to have access to CRS’s nonpartisan, taxpayer-funded reports.

By providing public access to CRS reports, we can elevate our national discourse and make it easier for citizens to cut through the misinformation that is too often involved in the national debate. Citizens should have full access to the same neutral, unbiased information that many of us in Congress use to help us make important decisions.

CRS is governed by requirements for accuracy, balance, and nonpartisanship—the very sort of analysis sought and valued by engaged constituents.

Mr. Chairman, I, again, commend the chairman for including this measure in the legislative Branch title. This is one of many victories for taxpayers in this important bill.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DeLAURO), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education.

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this bill.

What does this bill do?

It would force the Office of Management and Budget to issue an across-the-board budget cut for defense spending come January.

Why?

Because the House appropriations bills exceed the defense budget spending cap by more than $72 billion. I might add that both Democrats and Republicans voted for these spending caps for defense spending and for nondefense spending.

So the defense funding in the bill, their numbers are, in essence, fake. These are fake numbers. Republicans have no plan to raise both our need to support our national security and military readiness and our need to support hardworking middle class families who are struggling.

So if these bills are enacted, the only way to avoid this across-the-board defense spending cut is if we had another budget deal to revise the bipartisan Budget Control Act, which established spending caps for defense spending and for nondefense spending.

Now, add to that, since military pay is usually exempt from budget cuts, if this bill and the other House appropriations bills are signed into law, the Office of Management and Budget, by law, would be required to cut defense spending by more than 13 percent, or $72 billion. We would need a new budget agreement so that we can increase both the defense and nondefense spending to meet the needs of our country.

My friends, this is not going to happen easily.

The bigger economic challenge of our time is that too many people are in jobs that do not pay them enough to live on. We must invest in programs that provide opportunities for hardworking Americans to be able to improve their lives and for our economy to grow. We need a country that works for the middle class and for the vulnerable, not just the wealthy and those with the most lobbyists.

This budget process is irresponsible, and our military and hardworking families will all be shortchanged. This is unacceptable.

Congress needs to negotiate another budget deal that increases both the defense and the nondefense spending caps. The spending levels in the Defense and the nondefense spending bill are impossible to achieve unless there is a new budget deal and it is reached.

So, again, the numbers are fake. If you vote ‘yes’ today, you are voting for a pig in a poke.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I yield to Mr. SIMPSON.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate Mr. SIMPSON’s statement on the Denali Commission. It is a strong advocate for Alaska and the important work that the Denali Commission conducts in the State.

The House mark this year supports the Denali Commission and its efforts rather than the administration’s request to terminate the agency of Alaska.

The elimination of the Denali Commission would have deprived many communities of essential infrastructure and economic development projects.

In a time of economic change, these communities can scarcely afford to lose the millions of dollars in private investment leveraged by the Commission annually.

In the event the subcommittee receives additional funding in conference, I would be happy to work with my colleagues to secure the Denali Commission is provided sufficient funds to support their efforts in his State.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I appreciate the fact that Mr. SIMPSON just mentioned it was eliminated by the administration, and he did restore some of the money. I am just requesting that, if he gets any more money, we would look for it in the Denali Commission so that the work it has done is well rewarded.

Mr. Chairman, I thank both the chairmen for the work they have done establishing the Denali Commission in past years, and let’s go forth.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working with the gentleman from Alaska.
Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman of the Appropriations Committee for yielding me time. I am very pleased to support H.R. 3219, the Make America Secure Appropriations Act of 2018, especially because it includes H.R. 3266, which provides early-stage energy programs within the Science, Space, and Technology Committee’s jurisdiction.

Chairman SIMPSON, who is on the floor behind me, spoke closely with us, the Science, Space, and Technology Committee to include responsible, pro-science funding levels for the Department of Energy.

Chairman SIMPSON, your leadership and cooperation have been exceptional and are much appreciated. Thank you for your leadership in passing this legislation that sets America on a path to remain the world’s leader in innovation.

The appropriations included in this legislation are consistent with the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act, which passed the House last Congress. This bill also funds programs authorized in H.R. 589, the DOE Research and Innovation Act, which passed the House and the Senate and has the product of over 3 years of work by the Science, Space, and Technology Committee to advance basic research and set clear science priorities for the Department of Energy.

American industry relies on Federal support for basic research to produce the scientific breakthroughs that fuel technological innovation, new industries, economic growth, and good jobs.

Around the country, scientists at our National Labs and universities are conducting groundbreaking, basic science research that provides the foundation for next generation technology in energy, medicine, and manufacturing.

This legislation provides strong support for the Office of Energy’s Office of Science at $5.4 billion for fiscal year 2018. The Office of Science will get increased funding for research in basic energy sciences, high-performance computing, nuclear physics, high-energy physics, and fusion energy.

The strong support for the Office of Science in the appropriations bill will prioritize the basic research programs that are the core mission of the Department and the National Labs and lead to sciences that can provide benefits across the economy.

This legislation also includes responsible funding for DOE’s applied programs, prioritizing early-stage research in electricity, energy efficiency, renewables, fossil, and nuclear.

An example of such critical early-stage energy research involves nuclear energy where the bill’s funding supports the priorities outlined in the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act, which was signed into law as a part of H.R. 589. That legislation, sponsored by Energy Subcommittees Chairman RANDY WEBER of Texas, combines the strengths of the National Labs, univers-
ities, and the private sector to develop advanced nuclear technology. This technology is our best opportunity to provide reliable, emission-free electricity.

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I thank the chairman of the committee for yielding me an additional minute.

This appropriations bill also includes funding to begin design and construction for the research reactor authorization included in H.R. 589, which will provide access to the fast neutrons necessary to enable the next generation of nuclear energy technology.

As we shape the future of the Department of Energy, our priority must be basic and early-stage research that only the Federal Government has the incentives and resources to support and pursue. This will empower private sector innovators to develop and demonstrate resulting new capabilities that will attract the capital investments needed to take energy technology to the marketplace, creating jobs and expanding our economy.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this pro-science bill, pro-energy appropriations bill.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR).

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

I also want to thank the Appropriations chair from New Jersey and the staff, and also the ranking young lady from New York and the staff for being a bipartisan committee. The Appropriations Committee has been bipartisan.

While this bill before us is a step toward getting the job done of passing the appropriations bill before the end of the fiscal year, we know this is only the first step. We still have a lot more work to do.

I regret that the rule that we will take up tomorrow will likely include $1.6 billion for a wall. We who live on the border, we understand and we believe in border security, border security that is strong, sensible, common sense, and effective for the border. The wall is a 14th century solution to a 21st century challenge that we have.

The border wall is not the right solution for border security. Why? Number one, private property rights. We believe in private property rights. In fact, there are some people that, for generations, have owned land along the border. I have several veterans that own land. In fact, there is one veteran in particular that buried his father—his father who served in World War II—and his family right along the riverbank. So if you put a wall, what is he going to do? He is going to go visit the cemetary, the family cemetary along the border?
What about cattle, livestock? How are they going to have access to water along the river?

Number two, we have natural barriers along the Texas border. We have the rivers. You can see how the river snakes around. And what about the cliffs? Are you going to put a wall on top of this cliff? It just doesn’t make sense.

Number three, what about taxpayers’ dollars not going to pay for this wall. We know that the American taxpayer is going to pay for this, $1.6 billion for 74 miles out of the 1,954 miles that we have. That is $21.2 million per mile for this wall, compared to $1 million of technology we wanted to put, technology cameras, sensors, aerostats for border security.

And, oh, by the way, so $1.6 billion; all I need is $100, buy myself a good ladder, and we will take care of that wall. So why have we got to be smart about border security?

Number four, environmental concerns, we have concerns with regard to wildlife refuges.

What about the 40 percent out of the 11 million people that we have here who did visa overstays?

So you can put the biggest wall, but people are going to fly, are going to drive across the bridge, are going to get a boat into Houston and just stay over there.

What about a cap analysis so we know what are the real needs that we have? That is number six.

What about number seven, Mexico is an ally, is not our enemy. Every day we have $1.3 billion of trade with our friends to the south—every day, 1.3. That is over $1 million of trade every single minute, 6 million American jobs that we have because of the trade that we have with our friends to the south.

We need strong, commonsense border security, and I know this because I live on the border. I drink the water. I breathe the air. I understand this very well.

The border area is very safe. Use FBI stats. The murder rate in my hometown of Laredo is three murders per 100,000. Here in Washington, D.C., it is 24.5 murders per 100,000. So if you want to talk about dangerous, when I leave the border to fly over to Washington, this is the most dangerous thing about my job.

So the wall is a 14th century solution to a 21st century problem. I ask you to vote no on border wall.

Again, I want to thank the Appropriations Committee for being bipartisan. This is only the first step.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER).

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Make America Secure Appropriations Act of 2018. I am particularly pleased to support language from H.R. 2806, which provides appropriations for energy programs within the Science, Space, and Technology Committee’s jurisdiction.

For years, the Energy Subcommittee, which I chair, has listened to experts and gathered data to determine appropriate priorities for the DOE. The bill brought before the House floor reflects the findings of the committee. It funds basic and early-stage research, and it does so all the while reducing spending.

Importantly, this bill includes specific appropriations for programs authorized in my bill, the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act, which establishes a clear timeline and parameters for DOE to complete a research reactor. This type of research requires access to fast neutrons currently only available in Russia.

The completion of our own research reactor is crucial, Mr. Chairman, in ensuring materials and nuclear fuels R&D takes place in these United States of America. The versatile neutron source, or fast test reactor, authorized in my legislation will provide the United States with this vital capability.

I want to thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN for specifically including $35 million in funding, and Chairman SIMPSON, to begin the design and construction of vital research infrastructure in this appropriations bill.

America must maintain our nuclear capabilities and continue to develop cutting-edge technology here at home. This bill provides direction and robust funding for early-stage nuclear energy research. Without it, we will fall behind.

It is vital that we ensure this important research and development is fully funded. We cannot afford to miss the economic opportunities provided by next generation nuclear technology. I encourage my colleagues to support this pro-science, fiscally responsible legislation.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank our ranking member for yielding to me. I rise in opposition to funding for President Trump’s border wall. I have visited the border of Texas and Mexico many times. Communities all along and beyond the border in my home State of Texas are opposed to this border wall.

Texas has deep and historic ties with our neighbor to the south, Mexico. The people of Texas and Mexico share a pride. A clear majority of our communities believe that the close ties between Texas and Mexico—cultural, economic, linguistic—beneath both Texas and Mexico.

The construction of this “big, fat, beautiful wall,” to quote President Trump, along a 2,000-mile-long U.S.-Mexico border is not only unnecessary, but would be harmful to our border communities and wildlife and natural habitats along the border, and become a symbol of spite and division toward Mexico and its people.

Much of the border between the United States and Mexico is already separated by the Rio Grande River, a clear natural obstacle between the two countries. High traffic areas along our Southern border are further separated by over 650 miles of pedestrian and vehicle fencing currently on the border.

Congress has provided the Department of Homeland Security with robust funding since the Department’s creation to sharply increase the number of Border Patrol officers and surveillance tools, including aerial drones along the border.

As a result of these substantial investments by the American people, the number of immigrants without authorization has steadily declined, while the number of border apprehensions are near a 40-year low.

The $1.6 billion funded by taxpayer dollars included in this legislation for the President’s border wall should be directed for genuine needs, like expanding education opportunities for our children, rebuilding our Nation’s aging infrastructure.

Mr. Chairman, I ask my colleagues, if given the opportunity, to amend the legislation before this Chamber to move the border wall funding. Otherwise, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in opposing the minibus appropriations bill.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, in closing, I want to reiterate that this bill is a departure from regular order. Waste $1.6 billion on Trump’s border wall, uses fraudulent defense numbers, guts critical investments in clean energy, includes poison-pill riders, leaves the remaining spending bills with no path forward.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote “no,” and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, before I close, I just want to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. LOWEY for her work, and all of the staff here for the remarkable things they have been doing over the last 3 or 4 weeks. While we may disagree strongly on some issues, our committee, as Mr. CUELLAR said a few minutes ago, works in a bipartisan way to get our bills across the finish line.

To all the members of the committee and our staff and to the ranking member, I thank them for the amicable way they conduct our business. It is part of the history and tradition of our committee.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I think I closed prematurely without thanking you for your leadership. It has been really a pleasure working with you. I do hope that as we move the process forward, we will be able to have a final product that we can all be very proud of, and I look forward to working with you again. You have been a very delightful person to work with.

And I thank the chairman, all my staff that has been so hardworking and
Mr. Chair, I would like to state my strong commitment to administrative procedure and policies to approach their mandate to consult with the American public. I urge support of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Gowdy. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, in closing, I would remind the House that just yesterday we voted overwhelmingly in a bipartisan way to impose tough new sanctions on three aggressor nations: Russia, Iran and North Korea. Each pose their unique threats to our vital interests, their neighbors, and to global stability.

But little in history would predict that sanction alone will change the malign behavior of these three regimes.

That is why we need to get this bill across the finish line, to guarantee that our military is always prepared to meet any threat from anyone anywhere, whether it be China in the Pacific; international terrorist groups like ISIS, al-Qaeda, Al-Nusra, al Shabaab, Hezbollah, Hamas; and transnational drug smugglers and criminal cartels.

Mr. Chairman, I repeat: Congress’ most important constitutional duty is to provide for the common defense. This appropriations package before us allows us to meet that solid responsibility.

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

Mr. Gowdy. Mr. Chair, the unique circumstances of the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) decision creates an opportunity for the repeal of the rule. In November 2016, the Committee released a staff report titled “Politicization of the Waters of the United States Rulemaking,” detailing the findings of more than a year-long investigation into the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rulemaking. The investigation revealed widespread procedural violations, excessive unilateral and politically driven decision-making, and persistent failures of consultation and consideration of public comments.

The EPA’s extraordinary efforts to push through this procedurally deficient and roundly disliked rulemaking created an insurmountable illegitimacy of the rulemaking that warrants immediate repeal. To facilitate this necessary action, Congress is exercising its authority to create exemptions to existing law in H.R. 3219, the Make America Secure Appropriations Act, 2018. Section 108 of the bill provides a single-use exemption from regulatory procedure and legal requirements to allow EPA and the Secretary of the Army to immediately withdraw the WOTUS rule. The immediate repeal of WOTUS will allow EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers to start with a clean slate as they conduct a joint rulemaking, between equal partners, with full consideration of the comments and concerns raised by the American people.

In future rulemakings, including any WOTUS replacement, Congress expects federal agencies to approach their mandate to consult with state, local, and tribal governments and give full consideration to public comments with a commitment to an administrative procedure and effective rulemaking.

Ms. Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas. Mr. Chair, I would like to state my strong ob-
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), as authorized by law, $33,771,769,000: Provided, That not more than $15,000,000 may be used for the Combatant Commander Initiative Fund authorized under section 121 of title 10, United States Code: Provided further, That not to exceed $36,000,000 can be used for emergencies and extraordinary expenses, to be expended on the next or any subsequent appropriation; Provided further, That not to exceed $38,458,000 shall be made available for the Procurement Technical Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program, of which not less than $3,600,000 shall be available for centers defined in 10 U.S.C. 2411(1)(D): Provided further, That none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to plan or implement the consolidation of a budget or appropriations liaison office of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the office of the Secretary of a military department, or the service headquarters. (42 U.S.C. 402 note), and to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, $7,808,434,000.

NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Army National Guard while on duty under sections 10211, 10302, or 12402 of title 10, United States Code, or while serving on duty under section 12301(d) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing reserve training, or while performing drills or equivalent duty, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, $15,167,714,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Navy and the Marine Corps, as authorized by law, $45,980,133,000: Provided, That not to exceed $12,478,000 can be used for emergencies and extraordinary expenses, to be expended on the approval or authority of the Secretary of the Navy, and payments may be made on his certificate of necessity for confidential military purposes.

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Navy and the Marine Corps, as authorized by law, $45,980,133,000: Provided, That not to exceed $12,478,000 can be used for emergencies and extraordinary expenses, to be expended on the approval or authority of the Secretary of the Navy, and payments may be made on his certificate of necessity for confidential military purposes.

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Army Reserve; repair of facilities and equipment; and communications, $2,870,163,000.

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance, including training, organization, and administration, of the Army Reserve; repair of facilities and equipment; and communications, $2,870,163,000.

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance, including training, organization, and administration of the Marine Reserve; repair of facilities and equipment; and communications, $2,870,163,000.

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance, including training and organizational assistance of the Marine Reserve; repair of facilities and equipment; and communications, $282,337,000.
FOR EXPENSES FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE
RESERVE
For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance, including medical expenses, transportation and related expenses in non-Federal hospitals; maintenance, operation, and repairs to structures and facilities; hire of passenger vehicles; personnel services in the National Guard Bureau; travel expenses (other than mileage), as authorized by law for Army personnel on active duty, for Air National Guard personnel on active Federal duty, for Air National Guard battalion commanders while inspecting units in compliance with National Guard Bureau regulations when specifically authorized by the Chief, National Guard Bureau, $1,335,000,000, and equipment under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, AIR FORCE
INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS
For the Department of the Air Force, $108,749,000, to remain available until transferred: Provided, That the Secretary of the Air Force shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris of the Department of the Air Force, or for similar purposes, transfer the funds made available by this appropriation to other appropriations made available to the Department of the Air Force, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: Provided further, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, DEFENSE-WIDE
INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS
For the Department of Defense, $9,002,000, to remain available until transferred: Provided, That the Secretary of Defense shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris of the Department of Defense, or for similar purposes, transfer the funds made available by this appropriation to other appropriations made available to the Department of Defense, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES
INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS
For the Department of the Army, $233,673,000, to remain available until transferred: Provided, That the Secretary of the Army shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris of the Department of the Army, or for similar purposes, transfer the funds made available by this appropriation to other appropriations made available to the Department of the Army, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: Provided further, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, NAVY
INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS
For the Department of the Navy, $288,915,000, to remain available until transferred: Provided, That the Secretary of the Navy shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris of the Department of the Navy, or for similar purposes, transfer the funds made available by this appropriation to other appropriations made available to the Department of the Navy, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: Provided further, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NATIONAL GUARD
For expenses of training, organizing, and administering the Air National Guard, including medical expenses, transportation and related expenses in non-Federal hospitals; maintenance, operation, and repairs to structures and facilities; hire of passenger vehicles; personnel services in the National Guard Bureau; travel expenses (other than mileage), as authorized by law for Army personnel on active duty, for Air National Guard personnel on active Federal duty, for Air National Guard battalion commanders while inspecting units in compliance with National Guard Bureau regulations when specifically authorized by the Chief, National Guard Bureau, $6,735,930,000, and equipment under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces
For salaries and expenses necessary for the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, $7,275,829,000, to remain available until January 1, 2019.

Environmental Restoration, Army
INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS
For the Department of the Army, $255,809,000, to remain available until transferred: Provided, That the Secretary of the Army shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris of the Department of the Army, or for similar purposes, transfer the funds made available by this appropriation to other appropriations made available to the Department of the Army, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: Provided further, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

Environmental Restoration, Navy
INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS
For the Department of the Navy, $288,915,000, to remain available until transferred: Provided, That the Secretary of the Navy shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris of the Department of the Navy, or for similar purposes, transfer the funds made available by this appropriation to other appropriations made available to the Department of the Navy, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: Provided further, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid
For expenses relating to the Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid programs of the Department of Defense (consisting of the programs described in sections 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, and 2506 of title 10, United States Code), $107,900,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018.

Cooperative Threat Reduction Account
For assistance, including assistance provided by contract or by grants, under programs and activities of the Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction Program authorized under the Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction Act, $324,600,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019.

Operation and Maintenance, National Defense Restoration Fund
INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS
In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, there is appropriated, for the “Operation and Maintenance, National Defense Restoration Fund”: Provided, That such funds provided under this heading shall only be available for programs and activities necessary to implement the 2018 National Defense Strategy: Provided further, That such funds shall not be available for transfer until 30 days after the Secretary has submitted, and the congressional defense committees have approved, the proposed allocation plan for the use of such funds to implement such strategy: Provided further, That such funds shall include a detailed justification for the use of such funds and a description of how such investments are necessary to implement the strategy: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer these funds only to operation and maintenance accounts: Provided further, That the funds transferred shall be merged with and shall be available for the same purposes and for the same time period, as the appropriation to which transferred: Provided further, That none of the funds made available under this Act may be transferred to any program, project, or activity specifically limited or denied by this Act: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense.

Title III
Procurement
Aircraft Procurement, Army
For construction, procurement, production, modification, and modernization of aircraft, including engines, avionics, weapons, engines, ground handling equipment, spare parts, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction proposed thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment, layaway, and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, $1,456,533,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

Missile Procurement, Army
For construction, procurement, production, modification, and modernization of missiles, including ordnance, ground handling equipment, spare parts, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction proposed thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment, layaway, and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, $1,456,533,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.
WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For construction, procurement, production, modification, and modernization of vessels, torpedoes, other weapons, and related support equipment including spare parts, and accessories therefor, and for construction, procurement, and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, $2,581,690,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

PROCUREMENT OF WEAPONS AND TRACKED COMBAT VEHICLES, ARMY

For construction, procurement, production, and modification of weapons and tracked combat vehicles, including armor and armament, spare parts, and accessories thereof; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, $2,565,153,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For construction, procurement, production, and modification of ammunition, and accessories thereof; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, $735,651,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

SHIPBUILDING AND CONVERSION, NAVY

For expenses necessary for the construction, acquisition, or conversion of vessels as authorized by law, including armor and armament thereof, plant equipment, appliances, and machine tools and installation thereof in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; procurement of critical, long lead time components and systems, or conversion of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, $1,811,686,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For construction, procurement, production, and modification of vehicles, including tactical, support, and non-tracked combat vehicles; the purchase of in-service motor vehicles for replacement only; communications and electronic equipment; other support equipment; spare parts, ordnance, and accessories thereof; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, $6,536,044,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For construction, procurement, production, modification, and modernization of aircraft, equipment, including ordnance, spare parts, and accessories thereof; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, $6,140,000,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

PROCUREMENT, NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND

For construction, procurement, production, modification, and modernization of aircraft, equipment, including ordnance, spare parts, and accessories thereof; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, $3,387,826,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.
For construction, procurement, and modification of spacecraft, rockets, and related equipment, including spare parts and accessories therefor; ground handling equipment, and training of personnel of public and private plants; Government-owned equipment and installation thereof in such plants; erection of structures and acquisition of land, for the foregoing purposes and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; re- serve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes including rent and transportation of things, $2,210,350,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE

For construction, procurement, production, and modification of ammunition, and accessories therefor; special equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including ammunition facilities, authorized by section 2624 of title 10, United States Code, and the land necessary therefor; for the foregoing purposes and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement of light-, medium-, and heavy-duty; and other equipment necessary for the foregoing purposes, $1,316,977,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For procurement and modification of equipment to include weapon systems, special equipment and electronic control equipment, and ground electronic and communication equipment), and supplies, materials, and spare parts therefor, not otherwise provided for; the purchase of passenger motor vehicles for replacement only; lease of passenger motor vehicles; and expansion of public and private plants; Government-owned equipment and installation thereof in such plants, erection of structures, and acquisition of land, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon, prior to approval of title; re- serve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway, $19,318,814,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) necessary for procurement, production, and modification of equipment, supplies, materials, and spare parts therefor, not otherwise provided for; the purchase of passenger motor vehicles for replacement only; expansion of public and private plants; Government-owned equipment and installation thereof in such plants, erection of structures, and acquisition of land, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon, prior to approval of title; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway, $5,239,014,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT PURCHASES

For activities by the Department of Defense pursuant to sections 108, 301, 302, and 303 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4531, 4532, and 4533), $67,401,000, to remain available until expended.

PROCUREMENT, NATIONAL DEFENSE RESTORATION FUND

In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, there is appropriated $12,822,931,000, for the "Procurement, National Defense Restoration Fund"; Provided, That such funds provided under this heading shall only be available for programs, projects and activities necessary to implement the 2018 National Defense Strat- egy: Provided, That such funds shall not be available for transfer until 30 days after the Secretary has submitted, and the congressional defense committees have approved, the proposed allocation of such funds to implement such strategy: Provided further, That such allocation plan shall include a detailed justification for the use of such funds and a description of how such investments are necessary to implement the strategy: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer these funds only to procurement, development, test and evaluation, including initial operational test and evaluation which is conducted prior to, and in support of, production decisions; joint operational testing and evaluation; development of contracts and administrative expenses in connection therewith, $210,900,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2019.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, ARMY

For expenses necessary for basic and applied scientific research, development, test and eval- uation, including maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment, $9,674,222,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2019.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, NAVY

For expenses necessary for basic and applied scientific research, development, test and evalu- ation, including maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment, $17,196,321,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2019: Provided, That funds appropriated in this paragraph which are available for the V-22 may be used to meet unique operational requirements of the Special Operations Forces.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, AIR FORCE

For expenses necessary for basic and applied scientific research, development, test and eval- uation, including maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment, $31,874,980,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2019.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses necessary for basic and applied scientific research, development, test and eval- uation, including maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment, $20,698,353,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2019.

For expenses necessary for basic and applied scientific research, development, test and eval- uation, including maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment, $10,686,352,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2019, for research, development, test and evaluation, to accomplish the purpose provided herein: Provided further, That this transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided herein for the Defense Rapid Innovation Program shall, not fewer than 30 days prior to making transfers from this appro- priation, notify the congressional defense committees in writing of the details of any such transfer.

OCTOPUS TEST AND EVALUATION, DEFENSE

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, nec- essary for the independent activities of the Di- rector, Operational Test and Evaluation, in the direction and supervision of operational test and evaluation, including initial operational test and evaluation which is conducted prior to, and in support of, production decisions; joint operational testing and evaluation; and administrative expenses in connection therewith, $210,900,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2019.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, NATIONAL DEFENSE RESTORATION FUND (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, there is appropriated $1,000,000,000, for the "Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, National Defense Restoration Fund": Provided, That such funds provided under this heading shall only be available for programs, projects and activities necessary to implement the 2018 National Defense Strategy; Provided further, That such funds shall not be available for transfer until 30 days after the Secretary has submitted, and the congressional defense committees have approved, the proposed allocation plan for the use of such funds to implement such strategy: Provided further, That such allo- cation plan shall include a detailed justification for the use of such funds and a description of how such investments are necessary to imple- ment the strategy: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer these funds only to procurement, development, test and evaluation accounts: Provided further, That the funds transferred shall be merged with and shall be available for the same purposes and for the same time period, as the appropriation to which transferred: Provided further, That such funds shall not be available for transfer until 30 days after the Secretary has submitted, and the congressional defense committees have approved, the proposed allocation plan for the use of such funds to implement such strategy: Provided further, That such funds shall only be available for programs, projects and activities necessary to implement the 2018 National Defense Strategy.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, DEFENSE WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS

For the Defense Working Capital Funds, $1,586,596,000.

OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS

DEFENSE WORKING CAPITAL FUND

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, for medical and health care programs of the De- partment of Defense as authorized by law, $33,931,566,000, of which $31,735,923,000 shall be available for obligation not to exceed one percent shall remain available for obligation until September 30, 2019, and of which up to $15,349,700,000 may be available for contracts entered into after the 1053 CARE pro- gram, of which $895,328,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020, shall be for procurement; and of which $1,300,315,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2019, shall be for research, development, test and evaluation: Provided, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the funds provided herein for research, development, test and evaluation, not less than $8,000,000 shall be available for HIV PROGRAMS
prevention educational activities undertaken in connection with United States military training, exercises, and humanitarian assistance activities conducted primarily in African nations: Provided, That $201,353,000 shall be for the National Guard and military construction: Provided, That the funds appropriated under this heading shall be for research, development, and maintenance; for procurement; and for reprogrammings of funds using authority provided for in title 22, United States Code, national defense notwithstanding any other transfer authority contained in this Act, the Department of Defense funded by this Act that may be transferred under this section.

SEC. 8006. (a) With regard to the list of specific programs, projects, and activities (and the dollar amounts and adjustments to budget activities corresponding to such programs, projects, and activities) in the tables titled Explanation of Project Level Adjustments in the explanatory statement regarding this Act, the obligation and expenditure of amounts appropriated in this Act for those programs, projects, and activities for which the amounts appropriated exceed the amounts requested are hereby required by law to be set forth in the tables to the same extent as if the tables were included in the text of this Act.

(b) Amounts specified in the referenced tables described in subsection (a) shall not be treated as subdivisions of appropriations for purposes of section 8005 of this Act: Provided, That section 8005 shall apply when transfers of the amounts described in subsection (a) occur between appropriation accounts.

SEC. 8007. (a) Not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Department of Defense shall provide written notification to the congressional defense committees, that such transfers may not be made unless the Secretary of Defense certifies in writing to the congressional defense committees that such reprogramming or transfer is necessary as an emergency requirement: Provided, That this subsection shall not apply to transfers from the following appropriations accounts:

(1) “Environmental Restoration, Army”;
(2) “Environmental Restoration, Navy”;
(3) “Environmental Restoration, Air Force”;
(4) “Environmental Restoration, Defense-Wide”;
(5) “Environmental Restoration, Formerly Used Defense Sites”; and
(6) “Drug Interdiction and Counter-drug Activities, Defense”.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8008. During the current fiscal year, cash balances in working capital funds of the Department of Defense established pursuant to section 2208 of title 10, United States Code, may be maintained in only such amounts as are necessary at any time for cash disbursements to be made from such funds: Provided, That transfers made pursuant to this section shall not exceed $4,500,000,000 of working capital funds and the “Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Defense” appropriation and the “Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Defense-Wide” appropriation contained in the tables to the same extent as if the tables were included in the text of this Act.

SEC. 8009. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be for research, development, and operations (including facilities) for the construction, development, or acquisition of a weapon system, weapon system modification, or major repair for which the amounts appropriated exceed the amounts requested are hereby required by law to be set forth in the tables to the same extent as if the tables were included in the text of this Act.
reserves material inventory, unless the Secretary of Defense has notified the Congress prior to any such obligation.

SEC. 8090. Funds appropriated by this Act may not be obligated for a special access program without prior notification 30 calendar days in advance to the congressional defense committees.

SEC. 8091. None of the funds provided in this Act shall be available to initiate: (1) a multiyear contract that employs economic order quantity procurement in excess of $20,000,000 in any one year of the contract or that includes an un- funded contingent liability in excess of $20,000,000; or (2) a contract for advance procurement of multiyear contract that employs economic order quantity procurement in excess of $20,000,000 in any one year, unless the congressional defense committees have been no- tified at least 30 days in advance of the pro- posed contract award: Provided, That no part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be available to initiate a multiyear contract for which the economic order quantity advance procurement is not funded at least to the limits of the Government's liability: Provided further, That no part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be available to initiate any multiyear procurement contracts for any systems or com- ponent thereof if the value of the multiyear con- tract would exceed $500,000,000 unless specifically authorized by this Act: Provided further, That no multiyear procurement contract can be terminated without 30-day prior notification to the congressional defense committees: Provided further, That the use of multiyear capacity shall require the use of a present value analy- sis to determine lowest cost compared to an an- nual procurement: Provided further, That none of the funds provided in this Act may be used for a multiyear contract executed after the date of the enactment of this Act unless in the case of any such contract—

SEC. 8092. During the current fiscal year, the civilian personnel of the Department of De- fense may not be employed on the basis of an end-strength, and the management of such per- sonnel during that fiscal year shall not be sub- ject to any constraint or limitation (known as an end-strength) on the number of such per- sonnel who may be employed on the last day of such fiscal year.

SEC. 8093. The fiscal year 2019 budget request for the Department of Defense as well as all justifica- tion for the budget request submitted in support of the fiscal year 2019 budget request shall be prepared and submitted to the Congress as if subsections (a) and (b) of section 101 of the Act were effective with regard to fiscal year 2019.

SEC. 8094. As required by section 1107 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113–66; 10 U.S.C. 2358 note) civilian personnel at the Department of Army Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratories may be employed on a nonreimbursable basis, for civilian patients from the United States from components which are sub- stantly manufactured in the United States:

SEC. 8095. Funds appropriated in title III of this Act for the Department of Defense Pilot Mentor-Prote´ge´ Program may be transferred to any other appropriation contained in this Act solely for the purpose of representing a Men- tor-Prote´ge´ Program developmental assistance agreement pursuant to section 831 of the Na- tional Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113–66; 10 U.S.C. 2358 note), as amended, under the authority of this provision or any other transfer authority con- tained in this Act.

SEC. 8096. None of the funds in this Act may be available for the purchase by the Department of Defense (and its departments and agencies) of welded shipboard anchor and mooring chain 4 inches in diameter and under unless the anchor and mooring chain are manufactured in the United States from components which are sub-
receipt, such contributions from the Government of Kuwait shall be credited to the appropriations or fund which incurred such obligations.

SEC. 8022. (a) Of the funds made available in this Act—

(1) $39,800,000 shall be available from “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force” to support Civil Air Patrol Corporation operation and maintenance, readiness, counter-drug activities, and drug demand reduction activities involving youth;

(2) $10,600,000 shall be available from “Air

Craft, Procurement, Air Force”;

(3) $3,000,000 shall be available from “Other Procurement, Air Force” for vehicle procurement;

(b) The Secretary of the Air Force should waive the requirement to offset any funds used by the Civil Air Patrol for counter-drug activities in support of Federal, State, and local government agencies.

SEC. 8023. (a) None of the funds appropriated in this Act are available to establish a new Department of Defense (department) federally funded research and development center (FFRDC), either as a new entity, or as a separate entity administered by an organization managing another FFRDC, or as a nonprofit membership corporation consisting of a consortium of other FFRDCs and other nonprofit entities.

(b) No member of a Board of Directors, Trustees, Officers, Advisory Group, Special Issues Panel, Visitors, any member of a family of a defense FFRDC, and no paid consultant to any defense FFRDC, except when acting in a technical advisory capacity, may be compensated for his or her services as a member of such entity, or as a paid consultant by more than one FFRDC in a fiscal year: Provided, That a member of any such committee may receive compensation as previously referred to in this subsection shall be allowed travel expenses and per diem as authorized under the Federal Joint Travel Regulations, when engaged in the performance of membership duties.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds available to the department from any source during the current fiscal year may be used by a defense FFRDC, through a fee or other payment mechanism, for construction of new buildings not located on a military installation, payment of cost sharing projects funded by Government grants, for absorption of contract overruns, or for certain charitable contributions, not to include employee recognition in community service and/or development.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds available to the department during fiscal year 2018, not more than $9,000 staff years of technical effort (staff years) may be funded for defense FFRDCs: Provided, That, of the specific amount referred to previously in this subsection, not more than 1,180 staff years may be funded for the defense studies and analysis FFRDCs: Provided further, That this subsection shall not apply to staff years funded in the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and the Military Intelligence Program (MIP).

(e) The Secretary of Defense shall, with the submission of the department’s fiscal year 2019 budget request, submit a report presenting the specific amounts of staff years of technical effort to be allocated for each defense FFRDC during the fiscal year and the associated budget estimates.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the total amount appropriated in this Act for defense FFRDCs is hereby reduced by $210,000,000.

SEC. 8024. None of the funds appropriated or made available in this Act shall be used to procure equipment for defense FFRDCs or in any Government-owned facility or property under the control of the Department of Defense which were not melted and rolled in the United States or Canada: Provided, That these procurement restrictions shall apply to any and all Federal Supply Schedule 5515, American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), United States Army Research, Development and Non-Direct Support, National Technical Information Service, and any other area or category of the Department of Defense Working Capital Funds.

(b) The Secretary of the Air Force shall con-
SEC. 8034. None of the funds appropriated by this Act for programs of the Central Intelligence Agency shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year, except for funds appropriate to the Contingency Fund which shall remain available until September 30, 2019:

Provided, That funds appropriated, transferred, or otherwise credited to the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, or the Defense Intelligence Agency shall be used—

(1) to establish a field operating agency; or

(2) to pay the basic pay of a member of the Armed Forces or civilian employee of the department or agency who, in the opinion of the Secretary, is needed to further the national security interest of the United States by supporting a contingency operation.

SEC. 8035. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this Act shall be available until September 30, 2019, for expenses necessary to pay, in accordance with section 503 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3093) and in the discretion of the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the cost of consular services. All funds appropriated by this Act shall remain available until expended.

SEC. 8036. Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Defense under the heading "Operation Iraqi Freedom, Global War on Terrorism, and the War on Terrorism " shall remain available until expended:

(1) to establish a field operating agency; or

(2) to pay the basic pay of a member of the Armed Forces or civilian employee of the department or agency who, in the opinion of the Secretary, is needed to further the national security interest of the United States by supporting a contingency operation.

SEC. 8037. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not less than $21,000,000 shall be available for the United States to purchase equipment or products purchased under appropriations made available in this Act that are not classified as "Made in America" for the purposes of section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974.

(b) Of the funds appropriated in this Act under the heading "Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy", $10,000,000 shall remain available until expended:

(1) to establish a field operating agency; or

(2) to pay the basic pay of a member of the Armed Forces or civilian employee of the department or agency who, in the opinion of the Secretary, is needed to further the national security interest of the United States by supporting a contingency operation.

SEC. 8038. (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), none of the funds made available by this Act may be used—

(1) to establish a field operating agency; or

(2) to pay the basic pay of a member of the Armed Forces or civilian employee of the department or agency who, in the opinion of the Secretary, is needed to further the national security interest of the United States by supporting a contingency operation.

(b) In case of emergency, the Secretary of Defense may use such funds as may be necessary to support a contingency operation.

SEC. 8044. (a) None of the funds appropriated in this Act for programs of the Department of Defense Appropriations Acts, the Defense Appropriations Act for fiscal years 2021 and 2022, or any other Act shall be available for any military activities not specified in subsection (b), and hereafter for the Defense Intelligence Agency for the fiscal year 2021:

(1) for the gathering of information, documenting of environmental damage, and developing a system for prioritization of mitigation and cost to complete such activities, on Indian lands resulting from Department of Defense activities.

(2) for expenses necessary to pay expenses authorized by chapter 35 of title 10, United States Code, whether the person should be debarred from contracting with the Department of Defense.

(c) Expenses for the procurement of any product sold in or shipped to the United States that is not Made in America shall remain available until expended:

(1) to establish a field operating agency; or

(2) to pay the basic pay of a member of the Armed Forces or civilian employee of the department or agency who, in the opinion of the Secretary, is needed to further the national security interest of the United States by supporting a contingency operation.

SEC. 8045. (a) None of the funds appropriated in this Act may be transferred to any other department or agency of the United States except as specifically provided in this Act, except for an agency that was transferred to another department or agency by law or a law enacted before the enactment of this Act.

(b) None of the funds available in this Act may be used for any military activities that would result in Department of Defense activities not specified in this Act.

SEC. 8046. None of the funds appropriated in this Act may be used—

(a) to establish a field operating agency; or

(b) to pay the basic pay of a member of the Armed Forces or civilian employee of the department or agency who, in the opinion of the Secretary, is needed to further the national security interest of the United States by supporting a contingency operation.

SEC. 8047. (a) None of the funds appropriated in this Act may be transferred to any other department or agency of the United States except as specifically provided in this Act.

(b) None of the funds available in this Act may be used for any military activities that would result in Department of Defense activities not specified in this Act.
None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used for the procurement of ball and roller bearings other than those produced by a domestic source and of domestic origin: Provided, That the Secretary of the military department responsible for such procurement may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, that adequate domestic supplies are not available to meet Department of Defense requirements on a timely basis and that such an acquisition is necessary in order to maintain the capability for national security purposes: Provided further, That this restriction shall not apply to the purchase of ‘‘commercial items’’, as defined by section 103 of title 41, United States Code, except that the restriction shall apply to ball or roller bearings purchased as end items.

None of the funds made available by this Act for Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle service competitive procurements may be used unless the competitive procurements are open for award to all certified providers of Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle-class systems: Provided, That the award shall be made to the provider that offers the best value to the government.

None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available elsewhere in this Act, $44,000,000 is hereby appropriated to the Department of Defense: Provided, That upon the declaration of the Secretary of Defense that it shall serve the national interest, the Secretary shall make grants in the amounts specified as follows: $20,000,000 to the United Service Organizations and $24,000,000 to the Red Cross.

None of the funds in this Act may be used to purchase any supercomputer which is not manufactured in the United States, unless the Secretary of Defense certifies to the congressional defense committees that such an acquisition is necessary in order to acquire capability for national security purposes that is not available from United States manufacturers.

Notwithstanding any other provision in this Act, the Small Business Innovation Research program and the Small Business Technology Transfer program set-asides shall be taken proportionally from all programs, projects, or activities to the extent they contribute to the extramural budget.

None of the funds available to the Department of Defense under this Act shall be obligated or expended for the payment of a contract with the Department of Defense for costs of any amount paid by the contractor to an employee when—

(1) such costs are for a bonus or otherwise in excess of the normal salary paid by the contractor to the employee; and

(2) such bonus is part of restructuring costs associated with a business combination.

During the current fiscal year, no more than $30,000,000 of appropriations made in this Act under the heading ‘‘Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide’’ may be transferred to appropriations available for the pay of military personnel, to be merged with, and to be available for the same time period as the appropriation to which transferred, for the support of such personnel in connection with support and services for eligible organizations and activities outside the Department of Defense pursuant to section 2012 of title 10, United States Code.

During the current fiscal year, in the case of an appropriation account of the Department of Defense under which the availability for obligation has expired or which has closed under the provisions of section 1552 of title 31, United States Code, and which has a negative unliquidated or unexpended balance, has closed under the provisions of section 1552 of title 31, United States Code.

The Secretary of Defense may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that it is in the national security interest to do so.

(a) The Secretary of Defense may, on a case-by-case basis, waive with respect to a foreign country each procurement of defense items from foreign sources provided in law if the Secretary determines that the application of the limitation with respect to that country would invalidate cooperative programs entered into between the Department of Defense and the foreign country, or would invalidate reciprocal trade agreements for the procurement of such items entered into pursuant to section 531 of title 10, United States Code, and the country does not discriminate against the same or similar defense items produced in the United States.

(b) Subsection (a) applies with respect to—

(1) contracts and subcontracts entered into on or after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) options for the procurement of items that are exercised after such date under contracts and subcontracts entered into before such date if the option prices are adjusted for any reason other than the application of a waiver granted under subsection (a).

(c) The application (a) does not apply to a limitation regarding construction of public vessels, ball and roller bearings, food, and clothing or textile materials as defined by section 1(b) of the Agreement between the People of the United States and products classified under headings 4010, 4020, 4023, 6401 through 6406, 6505, 7019, 7218 through 7229, 7304.41 through 7304.49, 7306.40, 7306.49, 7522 through 7508, 8105, 8108, 8109, 8211, 8215, and 9404.

None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available elsewhere in this Act may be used in connection with the National Ballistic Missile Defense System.

None of the funds appropriated in this Act may be used to procure end-items for military personnel, to be merged with, and to be available for the same time period as the appropriation under which transferred, for the Department of Defense Appropriations Acts may be obligated or expended for the purpose of performing repairs or maintenance to military family housing units of the Department of Defense, including areas in such military family housing units that may be used for the purpose of conducting official Department of Defense business.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated in this Act under the heading ‘‘Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide’’ for any weapon system start advanced component demonstration project or joint capability demonstration project may only be obligated 45 days after a report, including a description of the project, the projected acquisition strategy and its estimated annual and total cost, has been provided in writing to the congressional defense committees: Provided, That the Secretary of Defense may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis by certifying to the congressional defense committees that it is in the national interest to do so.

The Secretary of Defense shall continue to provide a classified quarterly report to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, Subcommittees on Defense on certain matters as directed in the classified annex accompanying this Act.

Notwithstanding subsection 1210(b) of title 10, United States Code, a Reserve who is a member of the National Guard serving on full-time National Guard duty under section 922(f) of title 32, United States Code, may perform duties in support of the ground-based elements of the National Ballistic Missile Defense System.

None of the funds provided in this Act may be used to transfer to any nongovernment entity any component held by the Department of Defense that has a center-fire cartridge and a United States military nomenclature designation of ‘‘armor penetrator’’, ‘‘armor piercing incendiary tracer (API)’’, or ‘‘armor-piercing incendiary tracer (AP-T)’’, except to an entity performing demilitarization
services for the Department of Defense under a contract that requires the entity to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department of Defense that armor piercing projectiles are either:
(1) recyclable and reusable; (2) compatible with existing demilitarization processes; or (3) used in manufacture pursuant to a certificate of demilitarization and the manufacture of ammunition for export pursuant to a License for Permanent Export of Unclassified Military Articles issued by the Department of Commerce.

SEC. 8063. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, or his designee, may waive payment of all or any part of the consideration that otherwise would be required under section 2667 of title 10, United States Code, in the case of a lease of personal property for a period not in excess of 1 year to any organization specified in section 508(d) of title 32, United States Code, or any other youth, social, or fraternal nonprofit organization as may be approved by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, or his designee, on a case-by-case basis.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8064. Of the amounts appropriated in this Act under the heading "Operation and Maintenance, Navy", amounts included in the amounts appropriated in this Act shall be for the Israel Cooperative Programs: Provided, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Defense is authorized to transfer such funds to the Secretary of the Treasury: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense is authorized to enter into and carry out contracts for the acquisition of real property, including through the creation of a new organization as may be approved by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, or his designee, on a case-by-case basis.

SEC. 8065. (a) Of the amounts appropriated in this Act under the headings "Procurement, Defense-Wide" and "Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy", $231,500,000 shall be for the Secretary of Defense to provide to the Government of Israel for the maintenance of the Iron Dome defense system to counter short-range rocket threats, subject to the U.S.-Israel Iron Dome Procurement Agreement, as amended; $221,500,000 shall be for the Short Range Ballistic Missile Defense (SRBMD) program, including cruise missile defense research and development under the SRBMD program, of which $120,000,000 shall be for co-production activities of SRBMD missiles in the United States and in Israel to meet Israel's defense requirements consistent with each nation's laws, regulations, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel co-production agreement for SRBMD, as amended; $205,000,000 shall be for an upper-tier component to the Israeli Missile Defense Architecture, of which $120,000,000 shall be for co-production activities of Arrow 3 Upper Tier missiles in the United States and in Israel to meet Israel's defense requirements consistent with each nation's laws, regulations, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel Arrow 3 Upper Tier co-production agreement; and $31,941,000 shall be for research and development, test, evaluation, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel co-production agreement for Arrow 3 Upper Tier, as amended; $165,000,000 shall be for research and development, test, evaluation, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel Arrow 3 Upper Tier co-production agreement; and $205,000,000 shall be for an upper-tier component to the Israeli Missile Defense Architecture, of which $120,000,000 shall be for co-production activities of Arrow 3 Upper Tier missiles in the United States and in Israel to meet Israel's defense requirements consistent with each nation's laws, regulations, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel Arrow 3 Upper Tier co-production agreement; and $31,941,000 shall be for research and development, test, evaluation, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel co-production agreement for Arrow 3 Upper Tier, as amended;

(b) Nothing in section (a) shall be construed to prohibit the merger of programs or changes to any organization, service, and operation related to projects carrying out the purposes of this section: Provided further, That projects authorized by this section shall comply with applicable Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and procedures, consistent with the national security, as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 8066. (a) None of the funds appropriated in this Act in the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy accounts shall be transferred for research and development, test, evaluation, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel Arrow 3 Upper Tier co-production agreement; and $31,941,000 shall be for research and development, test, evaluation, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel co-production agreement for Arrow 3 Upper Tier, as amended; $165,000,000 shall be for research and development, test, evaluation, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel Arrow 3 Upper Tier co-production agreement; and $205,000,000 shall be for an upper-tier component to the Israeli Missile Defense Architecture, of which $120,000,000 shall be for co-production activities of Arrow 3 Upper Tier missiles in the United States and in Israel to meet Israel's defense requirements consistent with each nation's laws, regulations, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel Arrow 3 Upper Tier co-production agreement; and $31,941,000 shall be for research and development, test, evaluation, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel co-production agreement for Arrow 3 Upper Tier, as amended; $165,000,000 shall be for research and development, test, evaluation, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel Arrow 3 Upper Tier co-production agreement; and $205,000,000 shall be for an upper-tier component to the Israeli Missile Defense Architecture, of which $120,000,000 shall be for co-production activities of Arrow 3 Upper Tier missiles in the United States and in Israel to meet Israel's defense requirements consistent with each nation's laws, regulations, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel Arrow 3 Upper Tier co-production agreement; and $31,941,000 shall be for research and development, test, evaluation, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel co-production agreement for Arrow 3 Upper Tier, as amended; $165,000,000 shall be for research and development, test, evaluation, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel Arrow 3 Upper Tier co-production agreement; and $205,000,000 shall be for an upper-tier component to the Israeli Missile Defense Architecture, of which $120,000,000 shall be for co-production activities of Arrow 3 Upper Tier missiles in the United States and in Israel to meet Israel's defense requirements consistent with each nation's laws, regulations, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel Arrow 3 Upper Tier co-production agreement; and $31,941,000 shall be for research and development, test, evaluation, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel co-production agreement for Arrow 3 Upper Tier, as amended; $165,000,000 shall be for research and development, test, evaluation, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel Arrow 3 Upper Tier co-production agreement; and $205,000,000 shall be for an upper-tier component to the Israeli Missile Defense Architecture, of which $120,000,000 shall be for co-production activities of Arrow 3 Upper Tier missiles in the United States and in Israel to meet Israel's defense requirements consistent with each nation's laws, regulations, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel Arrow 3 Upper Tier co-production agreement; and $31,941,000 shall be for research and development, test, evaluation, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel co-production agreement for Arrow 3 Upper Tier, as amended; $165,000,000 shall be for research and development, test, evaluation, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel Arrow 3 Upper Tier co-production agreement; and $205,000,000 shall be for an upper-tier component to the Israeli Missile Defense Architecture, of which $120,000,000 shall be for co-production activities of Arrow 3 Upper Tier missiles in the United States and in Israel to meet Israel's defense requirements consistent with each nation's laws, regulations, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-IsraelArrow 3 Upper Tier co-production agreement; and $31,941,000 shall be for research and development, test, evaluation, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel co-production agreement for Arrow 3 Upper Tier, as amended; $165,000,000 shall be for research and development, test, evaluation, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel Arrow 3 Upper Tier co-production agreement; and $205,000,000 shall be for an upper-tier component to the Israeli Missile Defense Architecture, of which $120,000,000 shall be for co-production activities of Arrow 3 Upper Tier missiles in the United States and in Israel to meet Israel's defense requirements consistent with each nation's laws, regulations, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel Arrow 3 Upper Tier co-production agreement; and $31,941,000 shall be for research and development, test, evaluation, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel co-production agreement for Arrow 3 Upper Tier, as amended.

(b) Nothing in section (a) shall be construed to prohibit the merger of programs or changes to any organization, service, and operation related to projects carrying out the purposes of this section: Provided further, That projects authorized by this section shall comply with applicable Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and procedures, consistent with the national security, as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 8067. None of the funds appropriated by the transfer authority provided under this paragraph shall be transferred for the Israeli Cooperative Programs: Provided, That these documents shall include a description of the funding requested for each contingency operation, for each military service, to include all Active and Reserve components, and for each appropriations account: Provided further, That these documents shall include estimated costs for each element of expense or object class, a reconciliation of increases and decreases for each contingency operation, and programmatic justification, including the strength for each Active and Reserve component, and estimates of the major weapons systems deployed in support of each contingency: Provided further, That these documents shall include budget exhibits OP-5 and OP-32 (as defined in the Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation) for all contingency operations for the budget year and the two preceding fiscal years.

SEC. 8072. None of the funds in this Act may be used for research, development, test, evaluation, procurement, production, or operations for the nuclear armed interceptors of a missile defense system.

SEC. 8073. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, to reflect savings due to favorably changed exchange rates, the amount appropriated in this Act is hereby reduced by $289,000,000.

SEC. 8074. None of the funds appropriated or made available in this Act shall be used to reduce or disestablish the operation of the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the Air Force Reserve, if such action would reduce the U.S.-Israel Iron Dome Weather Reconnaissance mission below the levels funded in this Act: Provided, That the Air Force shall allow the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron to perform other missions in support of national defense requirements during the non-hurricane season.

SEC. 8075. None of the funds provided in this Act shall be used for integration of foreign intelligence information unless the information has been lawfully collected and processed during the conduct of authorized foreign intelligence activities: Provided, That information received under section 1054 of title 50 United States Code shall only be handled in accordance with protections provided in the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution as implemented through Executive Order No. 12333.

SEC. 8076. (a) None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to transfer research and
SEC. 8077. None of the funds appropriated by this Act for programs of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence shall remain available for obligation or expenditure in the current fiscal year, except for funds appropriated for research and technology, which shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

SEC. 8078. (a) None of the funds provided for the National Intelligence Program in this Act shall be used to support any military training or operations that includes child soldiers, as defined by the Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008, unless such assistance is otherwise permitted under section 402A(d) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 402a(d)).

(b) None of the funds provided for the National Intelligence Program in this Act or any prior appropriations Act shall be used for obligations or expenditures through a reprogramming or transfer of funds in accordance with section 102A(d) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(d)) that results in a cumulative increase or decrease of the levels specified in the classified annex accompanying the Act unless the congressional intelligence committees are notified 30 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds; this notification period may be reduced for urgent national security requirements.

SEC. 8079. (a) Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees to establish the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for fiscal year 2018: Provided, That the report shall include—

(1) a table for each appropriation with a separate column for the President’s budget request, adjustments made by Congress, adjustments due to enacted rescissions, if appropriate, and the fiscal year enacted level;

(2) a table for each appropriation by Expenditure Center and project; and

(3) an identification of items of special congressional interest.

(b) Without further action by Congress, the funds provided for the National Intelligence Program in this Act shall be available for reprogramming or transfer until the report identified in subsection (a) is submitted to the congressional intelligence committees, unless the Director of National Intelligence certifies in writing to the congressional intelligence committees that such reprogramming or transfer is necessary as an emergency requirement.

SEC. 8080. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to eliminate, restruc- ture, or reorganize any agency or office in New Jersey or make disproportionate personnel reductions at any Army Contracting Command—New Jersey sites without 30-day prior notification to the congressional defense committees.

(Recess)

SEC. 8081. Of the unobligated balances available to the Department of Defense, the following funds are permanently rescinded from the following accounts and programs in the specified amounts to reflect excess cash balances in the Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund:

From “Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund, Defense”, $10,000,000.

SEC. 8082. None of the funds made available by this Act for excess defense articles, assistance under section 333 of title 10, United States Code, or peacekeeping operations for the countries designated annually to be in violation of the standards of the Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–457; 22 U.S.C. 2370c–1) may be used to support any military training or operations that includes child soldiers, as defined by the Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008, unless such assistance is otherwise permitted under section 404 of the Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008.

SEC. 8083. (a) None of the funds provided for the National Intelligence Program in this Act or any prior appropriations Act shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming or transfer of funds in accordance with section 102A(d) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(d)) that results in a cumulative increase or decrease of the levels specified in the classified annex accompanying the Act unless the congressional intelligence committees are notified 30 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds; this notification period may be reduced for urgent national security requirements.

(b) None of the funds provided for the National Intelligence Program in this Act or any prior appropriations Act shall be used for obligations or expenditures through a reprogramming or transfer of funds in accordance with section 102A(d) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(d)) that results in a cumulative increase or decrease of the levels specified in the classified annex accompanying the Act unless the congressional intelligence committees are notified 30 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds; this notification period may be reduced for urgent national security requirements.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees not later than 45 days after the report is transmitted.

(d) Any agency receiving funds provided in this Act for operation and maintenance may be available for the purpose of making remittances and transfer to the Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund in accordance with section 1707 of title 10, United States Code.

(Recess)

SEC. 8086. Not to exceed $110,000,000 from each of the appropriations made in title II of this Act for “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force”, “Operation and Maintenance, Navy”, and “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force” may be transferred by the military department concerned to its central activity, or any of its major activities, for other military operations within the fiscal year.

SEC. 8087. Not to exceed $500,000,000 appropriated by this Act for operation and maintenance may be available for the purpose of making remittances and transfer to the Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund in accordance with section 1707 of title 10, United States Code.

(Recess)

SEC. 8088. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public website of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this Act, or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or

(2) the report contains proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees not later than 45 days after the report is transmitted.

(d) Any agency receiving funds provided in this Act for operation and maintenance may be available for the purpose of making remittances and transfer to the Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund in accordance with section 1707 of title 10, United States Code.

(Recess)

SEC. 8089. From within the funds appropriated for operation and maintenance for the Defense Health Program in this Act, up to $115,519,000, shall be available for transfer to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facilities Fund in accordance with the provisions of section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, Public Law 111–84; Provided, That any facility operations funded are operations of the integrated Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, consisting of the North Chicago Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the North Chicago Ambulatory Care Center, and supporting facilities designated as a combined Federal medical facility as described by section 706 of Public Law 113–66; Provided further, That any funds may be transferred from funds appropriated for operation and maintenance for the Defense Health Program in this Act.
Health Program to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Defense to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate. SEC. 8091. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Defense, or any other official or officer of the Department of Defense, to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement for the loan or lease of any equipment, or for the loan or lease guarantee to Rosoboronexport or any subsidiary of Rosoboronexport.

(b) The Secretary of Defense may waive the limitations in subsection (a), in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, determines that it is in the vital national security interest of the United States to do so, and certifies in writing to the congressional defense committees that, to the best of the Secretary’s knowledge:

(1) there is a national security imperative in the need for lethal military equipment to, and the maintenance of existing lethal military equipment for, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic;

(2) the Armed Forces of the Federation have withdrawn from Crimea, other than armed forces present on military bases subject to agreements in force between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of Ukraine; and

(3) Agents of the Russian Federation have ceased taking active measures to destabilize the control of the Government of Ukraine over eastern Ukraine.

(c) The Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall conduct a review of any action involving Rosoboronexport or the waiver issued by the Secretary of Defense pursuant to subsection (b), and not later than 90 days after the date on which such a waiver is issued by the Secretary of Defense, the Inspector General shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing the results of the review conducted with respect to such waiver.

SEC. 8099. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for the purchase or manufacture of a flag of the United States unless any such flag (including items under section 2533(b) of title 10, United States Code) is procured from a United States person.

SEC. 8100. (a) Of the funds appropriated in this Act for the Department of Defense, amounts may be made available, under such regulations as the Secretary of Defense may prescribe, to local military commanders appointed by the Secretary, or by an officer or employee designated by the Secretary, to provide at their discretion ex gratia payments in amounts consistent with subsection (d) of this section for damage, personal injury, and death resulting from combat operations of the Armed Forces in a foreign country.

(b) An ex gratia payment under this section may be provided:

(1) the prospective foreign civilian recipient is determined by the local military commander to be friendly to the United States;

(2) a claim for damages would not be compensable under chapter 163 of title 10, United States Code (commonly known as the “Foreign Claims Act”); and

(3) the property damage, personal injury, or death was not caused by action of an enemy.

(2) the dollar amount of a payment under this section shall not be considered an admission or acknowledgement of any legal obligation to compensate for any damage, personal injury, or death.

(d) AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—If the Secretary of Defense determines a program under subsection (a) to be appropriate in a particular setting, the amounts of payments, if any, to be provided to civilians determined to have suffered harm incident to combat operations of the Armed Forces under the program should be determined pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary and based on an assessment, which should include such factors as cultural appropriateness and prevailing economic conditions.

(e) LEGAL ADVICE.—Local military commanders shall receive legal advice before making ex gratia payments under this subsection. The legal advisor, under regulations of the Department of Defense, shall advise on whether an ex gratia payment is proper under this section and applicable laws.

(f) WRITTEN RECORD.—A written record of any ex gratia payment offered or denied shall be kept by the local commander and on a timely basis be submitted to the congressional defense committees.

(g) REPORT.—The Secretary of Defense shall report to the congressional defense committees on an annual basis the efficacy of the ex gratia payment program including the number of types of payments made, the number of claimants, the amount paid, and the extent of the program.

SEC. 8103. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to fund the performance of a flight demonstration team at a location outside the United States; provided further, That such authority to transfer may not be used unless for higher priority items, based on unforeseen intelligence requirements, than those for which originally appropriated and in no case where the item for which funds are requested has been denied by the Congress:

(1) of $1,500,000,000 of the funds made available in this Act for the National Security Agency.

(2) of $50,000,000 of the funds made available in this Act for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

SEC. 8104. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligates or expended to implement the Arms Trade Treaty until the Senate approves a resolution of ratification for the Treaty.

SEC. 8106. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to pay the salary of any officer or employee of the Government of the United States person.

SEC. 8107. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for the construction, alteration, or repair of any building or other improvement, including a communication system, at a location outside the United States.

SEC. 8108. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Defense, other than appropriations made for necessary or routine refurbishments, upgrades or maintenance activities, to be used to reduce or to prepare to reduce the number of deployed and non-deployed strategic delivery vehicles and launchers below the levels set forth in the report submitted to Congress in accordance with section 1042 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012.

SEC. 8109. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to fund the performance of a flight demonstration team at a location outside the United States; provided further, That such authority to transfer may not be used unless for higher priority items, based on unforeseen intelligence requirements, than those for which originally appropriated and in no case where the item for which funds are requested has been denied by the Congress:

SEC. 8110. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligates or expended to implement the Arms Trade Treaty until the Senate approves a resolution of ratification for the Treaty.

SEC. 8112. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to fund the performance of a flight demonstration team at a location outside the United States; provided further, That such authority to transfer may not be used unless for higher priority items, based on unforeseen intelligence requirements, than those for which originally appropriated and in no case where the item for which funds are requested has been denied by the Congress:

SEC. 8114. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligates or expended to implement the Arms Trade Treaty until the Senate approves a resolution of ratification for the Treaty.

SEC. 8116. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to fund the performance of a flight demonstration team at a location outside the United States; provided further, That such authority to transfer may not be used unless for higher priority items, based on unforeseen intelligence requirements, than those for which originally appropriated and in no case where the item for which funds are requested has been denied by the Congress:

SEC. 8118. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligates or expended to implement the Arms Trade Treaty until the Senate approves a resolution of ratification for the Treaty.
not in support of an ongoing military operation being conducted by United States Special Operations Forces to combat terrorism: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may waive the prohibition in this section if the Secretary determines that such waiver is required by extraordinary circumstances and, by not later than 72 hours after making such waiver, notifies the congressional defense committees of such waiver.

SEC. 8108. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used with respect to Iraq in contravention of the Joint Services Powers Resolution (U.S.C. 1541 et seq.), including for the introduction of United States armed forces into hostilities in Iraq, into situations in which the United States has significant national security or economic interests, or into situations designated by such resolution as international waters or airspace.

SEC. 8109. None of the funds provided in this Act for the 7th Fleet Oceania, the towing, salvage, and Rescue Ship programs shall be used to award a new contract that provides for the acquisition of the following components unless those components are acquired in accordance with the United States: Auxiliary equipment (including pumps) for shipboard services; propulsion equipment (including engines, reduction gears, and propeller shafts); shipboard cranes; and spreaders for shipboard cranes.

SEC. 8110. The amount appropriated in title II of this Act, for the Department of Defense, Ready Reserve Force, Maritime Administration Act for ''Operation and Maintenance, Navy'', is hereby reduced by $75,000,000 to reflect excess cash balances in Department of Defense Working Capital Funds.

SEC. 8111. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, to reflect savings due to lower than anticipated fuel costs, the total amount appropriated in title II of this Act is hereby reduced by $1,007,500.

SEC. 8112. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for Government Travel Charge Card expenses by military or civilian personnel of the Department of Defense for gambling, or for entertainment that includes topless or nude entertainers or participants, as prohibited by Department of Defense FMR, Volume 9, Chapter 3 and Department of Defense Instruction 1915.10 (enclosure 3, 14a and 14b).

SEC. 8113. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to propose, plan for, or execute any program or project as part of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round.

SEC. 8114. Of the amounts appropriated in this Act for Operation and Maintenance, Navy, $29,225,000 available until expended, may be used for any purpose related to the National Defense Reserve Fleet established under section 11 of the Merchant Ship Sales Act of 1946 (54 U.S.C. 4805); Provided, That such amounts are available for reimbursements to the Ready Reserve Force, Maritime Administration account of the United States Department of Transportation, as projects, programs, and other activities necessary to enter the engineering and manufacturing development phase.

SEC. 8115. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter the clausw or realignment of the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 8116. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter the clausw or realignment of the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 8117. Additional readiness funds made available in this Act for the National Guard and Reserve, and Reserve Fleet, and Department of Defense working capital, to be available until expended, may be used for: (1) the Rapid Prototyping Fund established under section 804(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (10 U.S.C. 2302 note); (2) credited to a military-department specific fund established under section 804(d)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328) shall be made in accordance with section 8005 or 9002 of this Act.

SEC. 8118. None of the funds credited to a military-department specific fund established under section 804(d)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328) shall be made in accordance with section 8005 or 9002 of this Act.

SEC. 8119. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network is designed to block access to pornography websites.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER FUND)

SEC. 8121. In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act for military personnel pay, including active duty, reserve and National Guard personnel, $236,357,000 is hereby appropriated for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 8122. In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, there is appropriated $23,500,000,000 for Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such funds shall only be available to the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Office of Economic Adjustment, or for transfer to the Secretary of Education, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to make grants, contract or agree to grants, or enter into agreements, or enter into any other arrangements to construct, renovate, repair, or expand elementary and secondary public schools on military installations in order to address capacity or facility condition deficiencies at such schools to the extent such funds remain unobligated on the date of enactment of this section.

SEC. 8123. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the changes to the Joint Travel Regulations of the Department of Defense described in the memorandum of the Per Diem Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee titled "UTD/CTD for MAP 118–13/CAP 118–13 – Flat Rate Per Diem for Long Term TDY" and dated October 1, 2014.

SEC. 8124. In carrying out the program described in the memorandum on the subject of "Policy for Assisted Reproductive Services for the Benefit of Seriously or Severely Ill/Injured (Critical II or I) Active Duty Military Members" issued by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs on April 3, 2012, and the guidance issued to implement such memorandum, the Secretary shall apply such policy and guidance, except that—

(1) the limitation on periods regarding embryo cryopreservation and storage set forth in part II of such memorandum, and in part IV(n) of such memorandum shall not apply; and

(2) the term "assisted reproductive technology" shall include embryo cryopreservation and storage without limitation on the duration of such cryopreservation and storage.

TITLE IX

OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/ GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

SEC. 8126. None of the funds provided in this Act for Reserve Personnel, Army, $24,942,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 8127. None of the funds provided in this Act for Reserve Personnel, Marine Corps, $2,635,317,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.


SEC. 8129. For an additional amount for "Military Personnel, Marine Corps", $101,800,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.


SEC. 8131. None of the funds provided in this Act for "Reserve Personnel, Army", $24,942,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.
RESERVE PERSONNEL, NAVY  
For an additional amount for “Reserve Personnel, Navy”, $9,091,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY  
For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Navy”, $5,875,015,000, of which up to $161,883,000 may be transferred to the Coast Guard “Operating Expenses” account: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS  
For an additional amount for “Reserve Personnel, Marine Corps”, $1,116,640,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS  
For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps”, $1,116,640,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, ARMY  
For an additional amount for “National Guard Personnel, Army”, $184,589,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY  
For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Army”, $10,266,295,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE  
For an additional amount for “National Guard Personnel, Air Force”, $5,604,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE  
For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide”, $6,944,201,000: Provided, That of the funds provided under this heading, $5,603,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019, shall be for payments to reimburse key cooperating nations for logistical, military, and other, support, including access, provided to United States military and stability operations in Afghanistan and to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant: Provided further, That such reimbursement payments may be made only as authorized by the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, and in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, may determine, based on documentation determined by the Secretary of Defense to adequately account for the support provided, and such determination is final and conclusive upon the accounting officers of the United States, and 15 days following notification to the appropriate congressional committees outlining the amounts intended to be included, access, provided to United States military and stability operations in Afghanistan and to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and 15 days following notification to the Secretary of Defense to adequately account for the support provided, and such determination is final and conclusive upon the accounting officers of the United States, and 15 days following notification to the appropriate congressional committees: Provided further, That funds provided under this heading may be used to support the Government of Jordan, in such amounts as the Secretary of Defense may determine, to enhance the ability of the armed forces of Jordan to increase or sustain its security forces by providing up to 15 days prior written notification to the congressional defense committees outlining the amounts intended to be provided and the purposes the funds shall be used: Provided further, That of the funds provided under this heading, not to exceed $900,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019, shall be available to the Secretary of Defense to support and assistance to foreign security forces or other groups or individuals to conduct, support, or facilitate counterterrorism, crisis response, or other Defense Department security cooperation programs: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY RESERVE  
For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Army Reserve”, $24,699,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY RESERVE  
For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Navy Reserve”, $3,980,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINA CORPS RESERVE  
For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps Reserve”, $3,367,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE RESERVE  
For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force Reserve”, $58,523,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD  
For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard”, $108,111,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR NATIONAL GUARD  
For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Air National Guard”, $15,400,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NATIONAL DEFENSE RESTORATION FUND  
(Including Transfer of Funds)  
In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, there is appropriated $2,000,000,000, for the “Military Personnel, National Defense Restoration Fund”: Provided, That such funds provided under this heading shall only be available for programs, projects and activities necessary to implement the 2018 National Defense Strategy: Provided further, That such funds shall not be transferred to any program, project, or activity specifically limited or denied by this Act: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY  
For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Army”, $16,126,403,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.
For the “Countering-Isil State of Iraq and the Levant Train and Equip Fund” $1,769,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019; provided, That such funds shall be available to the Secretary of Defense in coordination with the Secretary of State, to provide assistance, including training; equipment; logistics support, supplies, and services; stipends; infrastructure repair and renovation; and support for irregular forces, groups, or individuals participating, or preparing to participate in activities to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and the associated forces; provided further, That these funds may be used in such amounts as the Secretary of Defense may determine to enhance the border security of nations adjacent to conflict areas, including Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, and Tunisia resulting from actions of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may obligate and expend funds made available to the Department of Defense in this title for additional costs associated with operating and maintaining forces/units transferred to security forces, irregular forces, or groups participating, or preparing to participate in activities to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and the associated forces, including operating and maintaining forces/units transferred to such forces or groups and upon written notification to the congressional defense committees: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may establish such rules and regulations as are necessary to facilitate such assistance and to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of this section: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may accept and receive assistance, including training; equipment; logistics support, supplies, and services; stipends; infrastructure repair and renovation; and support for irregular forces, groups, or individuals participating, or preparing to participate in activities to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and the associated forces, including operating and maintaining forces/units transferred to such forces or groups and upon written notification to the congressional defense committees: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense shall provide quarterly reports to the congressional defense committees on the use of funds provided under this heading, including, but not limited to, the number of individuals trained, the nature and scope of support and assistance provided to each individual, the area of operations for each group, and the contributions of other countries, groups, or individuals: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Aircraft Procurement, Army”, $424,686,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020; provided, that such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Missile Procurement, Army”, $557,583,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020; provided, that such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT OF WEAPONS AND TRACKED COMBAT VEHICLES, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army”, $1,191,139,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020; provided, that such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Procurement of Ammunition, Army”, $405,575,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020; provided, that such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Aircraft Procurement, Navy”, $157,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020; provided, that such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Weapons Procurement, Navy”, $130,994,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020; provided, that such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for "Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps", $223,843,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For an additional amount for "Other Procurement, Navy", $207,984,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for "Procurement, Marine Corps", $64,071,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for "Aircraft Procurement, Air Force", $150,836,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for "Missile Procurement, Air Force", $381,700,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SPACE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for "Space Procurement, Air Force", $501,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for "Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force", $501,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for "Other Procurement, Air Force", $5,998,500, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for "Procurement, Defense-Wide", $510,741,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION

For procurement of army-wing aircraft; combat, tactical, and support vehicles; other weapons; and other procurement items for the reserve components of the Armed Forces, $1,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That the Chiefs of National Guard and Reserve components shall, not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, individually submit to the congressional defense committees the modernization priority assessment for their respective National Guard or Reserve component: Provided further, That none of the funds made available by this paragraph may be used to procure manned fixed wing aircraft, or procure or modify missiles, munitions, or ammunition: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT, NATIONAL DEFENSE RESTORATION FUND (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, there is appropriated $6,000,000,000, for the "Procurement Restoration Fund": Provided, That such funds shall be available only for programs, projects and activities necessary to implement the 2018 National Defense Strategy: Provided further, That such funds shall not be available for transfer until 30 days after the Secretary of Defense has submitted the proposed allocation plan for the use of such funds to implement such strategy: Provided further, That such allocation plan shall include a detailed justification for the use of such funds and a description of how such investments are necessary to implement the strategy: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer these funds only to procurement accounts: Provided further, That the funds transferred shall be merged with and shall be available for the same purposes and for the same time period, as the appropriation to which transferred: Provided further, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be transferred to any program, project, or activity specifically limited or denied by this Act: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer these funds only for purposes and for the same time period, as the appropriation to which transferred: Provided further, That such funds may be transferred only if the Secretary determines that such investments are necessary to implement the strategy: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer such funds only for purposes and for the same time period, as the appropriation to which transferred: Provided further, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be transferred to any program, project, or activity specifically limited or denied by this Act: Provided further, That such funds shall be merged with and shall be available for the same purposes and for the same time period, as the appropriation to which transferred: Provided further, That such funds shall be merged with and shall be available for the same purposes and for the same time period, as the appropriation to which transferred: Provided further, That such funds shall be merged with and shall be available for the same purposes and for the same time period, as the appropriation to which transferred.

DRUG INTERDiction AND COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEFENSE

For an additional amount for “Drug Interdiction and Countering Drug Activities, Defense” and $196,300,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

JOint IMPROVISED-THREAT DEFEAT FUND (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the “Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Fund” the Secretary of Defense shall be available for operation and maintenance, including airlift and sealift, and other logistical support to allied forces participating in the activities and maintenance of any equipment or facilities provided through the proposed project.

SFC. 9004. From funds made available in this title, the Secretary of Defense may purchase for the armed forces of the United States any weapon, defensive article, or weapon system as an authorized major acquisition, as defined in section 2301 of title 10, United States Code.

SFC. 9007. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to conduct any military installation or base for the purpose of providing for the permanent stationing of United States Armed Forces in Iraq.

SFC. 9008. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in contravention of the following laws enacted or regulations promulgated to implement the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (done at New York on December 10, 1984): (1) Section 1231 of title 8, United States Code; (2) Section 2242 of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (division G of Public Law 105-277); (3) 8 U.S.C. 1231 note) and regulations prescribed thereto, including regulations under part 208 of title 8, Code of Federal Regulations, and part 55 of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations.


SFC. 9009. None of the funds provided for the “Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Fund” may be obligated prior to the approval of a financial and activity plan by the Afghanistan Resources Oversight Council (AROC) of the Department of Defense to which the AROC must approve the requirement and acquisition plan for any service requirements in excess of $50,000,000 annually and any non-standard equipment requirements in excess of $100,000,000, using ASFF. Provided, Further, That the Department of Defense must certify to the congressional defense committees that the AROC has convened and approved a process for ensuring compliance with the requirements in the preceding proviso and accompanying report language for the ASFF.

SFC. 9010. Funds made available in this title to the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance may be used to purchase items having an investment unit cost of not more than $250,000: Provided, That, upon determination by the Secretary of Defense that such action is necessary to meet the operational requirements of a Commander of a Combatant Command engaged in operation against ISIL 

SEC. 9013. For the “Ukraine Security Assistance Account” (USAA), $225,000,000: Provided, That funds may be used to purchase items having an investment unit cost of not more than $500,000.

SFC. 9011. Up to $150,000,000 of funds appropriated by this Act for the Defense Security Cooperation Agency in “Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide” may be used to provide assistance to the Government of Jordan to support the armed forces of Jordan and to enhance security along its borders.

SFC. 9012. None of the funds made available by this Act under the heading “Counter-ISIL Train and Equip Fund” may be used to procure or transfer man-portable air defense systems.

SFC. 9013. For the “Ukraine Security Assistance Account” (USAA), $190,000,000: Provided, That such funds shall be available to the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to provide assistance, including training; equipment; lethal weapons of a defensive nature; logistics support, supplies and services; sustainment; and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance support to the military and national security forces of Ukraine, and for replacement of any weapons or defensive articles provided to the Government of Ukraine from the inventory of the United States: Provided, That the Secretary of Defense shall not, less than 15 days prior to obligating funds provided for this heading, notify the congressional defense committees of the pending obligation: Provided, Further, That the United States may accept equipment procured using
funds provided under this heading in this or prior Acts that was transferred to the security forces of Ukraine and returned by such forces to the United States: Provided further, That equipment and funds provided under this heading in this or prior Acts, and not yet transferred to the military or National Security Forces of Ukraine or returned by such forces to the United States, be transferred to the Secretary of the Department of Defense upon written notification to the congressional defense committees: Provided further, That amounts made available by this Act are here available in this Act for, if necessary.

Pakistan was not able to meet: Provided further, That amounts made available under this section that the Government of Pakistan may be made available only if the President subsequently so designates: Provided further, That funds provided in this Act may not be transferred to any program, project, or activity specifically limited or denied by this Act: Provided further, That amounts made available by this Act by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: Provided further, That the authority to provide funding under this Act shall terminate on September 30, 2018.

SEC. 9010. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used with respect to Syria in contravention of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.), including for the introduction of United States military forces into hostilities in Syria, into situations in Syria where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances, or into Syria where it is the clear intent and clear purpose to get United States military forces into hostilities in Syria, into situations in Syria where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances, or into Syria where it is the clear intent and clear purpose to get United States military forces into hostilities in Syria.

SEC. 9009. Of the funds appropriated in Department of Defense Appropriations Acts, the following funds are hereby rescinded from the following accounts and programs in the specified amounts: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985:

(1) "Other Procurement, Air Force", 2017/2018, $25,100,000.
(2) "Afghanistan Security Forces Fund", 2017/2018, $100,000,000.
(3) "Counter-ISIS Train and Equip Fund", 2017/2018, $112,513,000.

(REFERENCES)

SEC. 9019. Of the funds appropriated in Department of Defense Appropriations Acts, the following funds are hereby rescinded from the following accounts and programs in the specified amounts: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985:

(1) "Other Procurement, Air Force", 2017/2018, $25,100,000.
(2) "Afghanistan Security Forces Fund", 2017/2018, $100,000,000.
(3) "Counter-ISIS Train and Equip Fund", 2017/2018, $112,513,000.

(REFERENCES)

SEC. 9019. Of the funds appropriated in Department of Defense Appropriations Acts, the following funds are hereby rescinded from the following accounts and programs in the specified amounts: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985:

(1) "Other Procurement, Air Force", 2017/2018, $25,100,000.
(2) "Afghanistan Security Forces Fund", 2017/2018, $100,000,000.
(3) "Counter-ISIS Train and Equip Fund", 2017/2018, $112,513,000.

(OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE)

SEC. 9020. Each amount designated in this Act by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

SEC. 9009. Of the funds appropriated in Department of Defense Appropriations Acts, the following funds are hereby rescinded from the following accounts and programs in the specified amounts: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985:

(1) "Other Procurement, Air Force", 2017/2018, $25,100,000.
(2) "Afghanistan Security Forces Fund", 2017/2018, $100,000,000.
(3) "Counter-ISIS Train and Equip Fund", 2017/2018, $112,513,000.

(OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE)

SEC. 9020. Each amount designated in this Act by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

SEC. 9020. Each amount designated in this Act by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

(REFERENCE TO REPORT)

SEC. 10003. (a) Any reference to a "report accompanying this Act" contained in this division shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of this division.

(REFERENCE TO REPORT)

SEC. 10000. Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to "this Act" contained in this division shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of this division.

(Spending Reduction Account)

SEC. 10003. 80. This division may be cited as the "Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2018".

DIVISION B—LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLe I

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses of the House of Representatives, $1,194,599,766, as follows:

For salaries and expenses, as authorized by law, $22,278,891, including: Office of the Speaker, $6,645,417, including $25,000 for official expenses of the Majority Leader; Office of the House Majority Whip, including $10,000 for official expenses of the Minority Leader; Office of the House Minority Whip, including $10,000 for official expenses of the Majority Leader; Office of the Majority Whip, including $1,886,622, including $5,000 for official expenses of the Majority Whip; Office of the Majority Leader; Office of the Minority Leader; Office of the Majority Whip, including the Chief Majority Whip, $1,459,639, including $5,000 for official expenses of the Minority Whip; Republican Conference, $1,505,426; Democratic Caucus, $1,487,258; Provided: That such amount for salaries and expenses shall remain available from January 3, 2018 until January 2, 2019.

MEMBERS’ REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCES

INCLUDING MEMBERS’ CIRCLE, OFFICIAL EXPENSES OF MEMBERS, AND OFFICIAL MAIL

For Members’ representational allowances, including Members’ clerk hire, official expenses, and official mail, $562,832,488.

COMMITTEE EMPLOYEES

STANDING COMMITTEES, SPECIAL AND SELECT

For salaries and expenses of standing committees, special and select, authorized by House resolutions, $127,053,373: Provided, That such sums shall remain available until expended for committee room up-grading.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

For salaries and expenses of the Committee on Appropriations, $23,226,000, including studies
and examinations of executive agencies and temporary personal services for such committee, to be expended in accordance with section 202(b) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 and to be reimbursed on account of services performed: Provided, That such amount shall remain available for such salaries and expenses until December 31, 2018.

SALARIES, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

For necessary expenses for salaries and expenses of officers and employees, as authorized by law, $198,156,000, including: for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Clerk, the Clerk of the House, and the Sergeant at Arms, not more than $25,000 for official representation and reception expenses, of which not more than $20,000 is for the Family Room and not more than $5,000 is for the Office of the Clerk, $27,945,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, including the position of Superintendent of Garages and the Office of Emergency Management, and including not more than $3,000 for official representation and reception expenses, $20,305,000 of which $6,956,000 shall remain available until expended; for salaries, leave, travel, and subsistence of the Chief Administrative Officer including not more than $3,000 for official representation and reception expenses, $177,165,000, of which $2,108,000 shall remain available until expended; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Inspector General, $4,968,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of General Counsel, $1,092,000; for salaries of the Office of the Parliamentarian, $2,000 for preparing the Digest of Rules, and not more than $1,000 for official representation and reception expenses, $2,187,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House, $1,209,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Legislative Counsel, $9,437,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, $384,000; for other authorized employees, $585,000.

ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES

For allowances and expenses as authorized by House resolution or law, $260,704,004, including: supplies, materials, administrative costs and Federal tort claims, $2,625,000; official mail for commercial delivery costs, and administrative expenses of the offices of the House, $190,000; Government contributions for health, retirement, Social Security, and other applicable employee benefits, $235,334,000; available until expended for legislative functions, $4,879,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, $2,000; for the Office of Legislative Oversight, $1,670,000; for the Office of General Counsel, $1,130,000; and for international purchase, maintenance, and operation of House motor vehicles, $12,000.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

REQUIRING AMOUNTS REMAINING IN MEMBERS’ REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCES TO BE USED FOR DEBT REDUCTION OR TO REDUCE THE FEDERAL DEBT

SEC. 101. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any amounts appropriated under this Act for “HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES—ALLOWANCES—MEMBERS’ REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCES” shall be available only for fiscal year 2018.

(b) REGULATIONS.—The Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives shall have authority to prescribe regulations to carry out this section.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term “Member of the House of Representatives” means a Representative, or a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

DELIVERY OF CONGRESSIONAL PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

SEC. 102. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to deliver a printed copy of any version of the Congressional Record to the office of a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) unless the Member requests a copy.

DELIVERY OF CONGRESSIONAL PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

SEC. 103. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to provide an aggregate amount that exceeds $1,000 for the vehicle in any month.

LIMITATION ON AMOUNT AVAILABLE TO LEASE VEHICLES

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to deliver a printed copy of the report of disbursements for the operations of the House of Representatives under section 106 of the House of Representatives Administration Reform Technical Corrections Act (2 U.S.C. 5535) to the office of a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress).

DELIVERY OF PHOTOGRAPHS

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to deliver a printed copy of a bill, joint resolution, or resolution to the office of a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) unless the Member requests a copy.

DELIVERY OF CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to deliver a printed copy of the Congressional Pictorial Directory to the office of a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress).

DELIVERY OF DAILY CALENDAR

SEC. 107. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to deliver a printed copy of the Daily Calendar of the House of Representatives which is prepared by the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

DELIVERY OF CONGRESSIONAL PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

SEC. 108. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to deliver a printed copy of the Congressional Pictorial Directory to the office of a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress).

AMENDING THE HOUSE SERVICES REVOLVING FUND

SEC. 109. (a) COLLECTION OF CERTAIN SERVICE FEES.—Section 150(a) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2005 (2 U.S.C. 5545(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.”

ADJUSTMENTS TO COMPENSATION

SEC. 110. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no adjustment shall be made under section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501) (relating to cost of living adjustments for Members of Congress) during fiscal year 2018.

JOINT ITEMS

For Joint Committees, as follows:

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

For salaries and expenses of the Joint Economic Committee, $4,203,000, to be disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

For salaries and expenses of the Joint Committee on Taxation, $10,455,000, to be disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

For other joint items, as follows:

OFFICE OF THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN

For medical supplies, equipment, and contingent expenses of the emergency rooms, and for the Attending Physician and his assistants, including:

(1) an allowance of $2,175 per month to the Attending Physician;

(2) an allowance of $1,300 per month to the Senior Medical Officer;

(3) an allowance of $725 per month to three medical officers while on duty in the Office of the Attending Physician;

(4) an allowance of $725 per month to 2 assistants and $580 per month each not to exceed 11 assistants on the basis heretofore provided for such assistants; and

(5) $2,780,000 for reimbursement to the Department of the Navy for funds assigned for staff and equipment assigned to the Office of the Attending Physician, which shall be advanced and credited to the applicable appropriation or appropriations from which such salaries, allowances, and other expenses are payable and shall be available for all the purposes thereof, $2,580,000 to be disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses of the Office of Congressional Accessibility Services, $1,444,000, to be disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

SEC. 1001. (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF SENIOR LEVEL POSITIONS.—Notwithstanding any order issued by the Speaker of the House of Representatives pursuant to paragraph (1) of section 311(d) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1988 (2 U.S.C. 4302), the Chair of the Joint Committee on Taxation may establish and fix the compensation of senior level positions in the staff of the Joint Committee to meet recruitment scientific, technical, or executive needs of the Joint Committee.

(b) LIMITATION ON COMPENSATION.—The annual rate of pay for any position established under this section may not exceed the annual rate of pay for level II of the Executive Schedule.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (b) of section 214 of the Postal Revenue and Federal Salary Act of 1967 (2 U.S.C. 4302) is repealed.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2018 and each succeeding fiscal year.

CAPITOL POLICE

SALARIES

For salaries of employees of the Capitol Police, including overtime, hazardous duty pay, and Government contributions for health, retirement, Social Security, professional liability insurance, and other applicable employee benefits, $25,780,000 of which not in excess of $45,000,000 unless the Committee on Appropriations of the House and Senate are notified, to be disbursed by the Chief of the Capitol Police or his designee.
other equipment, security equipment and installation, uniforms, weapons, supplies, materials, training, medical services, forensic services, stenographic services, personal and professional services, assistance programs, the awards program, postage, communication services, travel advances, relocation of instructor and liaison personnel for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, and not more than $5,000 to be expended on the certification of the Chief of the Capitol Police in connection with official representation and reception expenses, $74,800,000, to be disbursed by the Chief of the Capitol Police or his designee: Provided, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the cost of basic training for the Capitol Police at the Enforcement Training Center for fiscal year 2018 shall be paid by the Secretary of Homeland Security from funds available to the Department of Homeland Security.

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES
For salaries and expenses of the Office of Compliance, as authorized by section 305 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1385), $3,195,000, of which $3,195,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022: Provided, That not more than $500 may be expended on the certification of the Executive Director of the Office of Compliance in connection with official representation and reception expenses, $45,500,000.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES
For salaries and expenses necessary for operation of the Congressional Budget Office, including not more than $6,000 to be expended on the certification of the Director of the Congressional Budget Office in connection with official representation and reception expenses, $48,500,000.

ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONS
For salaries for the Architect of the Capitol, and other personal services, at rates of pay provided by law; for all necessary expenses for surveys and studies, construction, operation, and general and administrative support in connection with facilities and activities under the care of the Architect of the Capitol including the Botanic Garden; electrical substation of the Capitol, Special, and General fund responsibilities of the Architect of the Capitol; including furnishings and office equipment; including not more than $5,000 for representation and general administrative expenses, to be expended as the Architect of the Capitol may approve; for purchase or exchange, maintenance, and operation of a passenger motor vehicle, $93,000,000.

CAPITOL BUILDING
For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Capitol, $45,300,000, of which $19,458,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022.

CAPITOL GROUNDS
For all necessary expenses for care and improvement of grounds surrounding the Capitol, the Senate and House office buildings, and the Capitol Power Plant, $13,335,000, of which $1,195,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022.

HOUSE OFFICE BUILDINGS
For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the House office buildings, $169,294,000, of which $45,139,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022, and of which $62,000,000 shall remain available until expended for the restoration and renovation of the Cannon House Office Building.

in addition to the National Capital Arts and Historic Buildings Revitalization Trust Fund, $10,000,000, to remain available until expended.

CAPITOL POWER PLANT
For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Capitol Power Plant; lighting, heating, power (including the purchase of electrical energy) and water and sanitation services for the Senate and House office buildings, Library of Congress buildings, and the grounds about the same, Botanic Garden, Senate garage, and air conditioning refrigeration and air conditioning and air conditioning of such buildings; heating the Government Publishing Office and Washington City Post Office, and heating and chilling water for air conditioning for the Supreme Court Building, the Union Station complex, the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building and the Folger Shakespeare Library, expenses for which shall be advanced or reimbursed by the Architect of the Capitol and amounts so received shall be deposited into the Treasury to the credit of this appropriation, $196,694,000, of which $29,037,000, shall remain available until September 30, 2022: Provided, That not more than $9,000,000 of the funds credited or to be reimbursed to this appropriation as the result of the sale of water and energy, shall be available for obligation during fiscal year 2018.

LIBRARY BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS
For all necessary expenses for the mechanical and structural maintenance, care and operation of the Library buildings and grounds, except those facilities covered by the Act of October 11, 1984 (2 U.S.C. 2146), upon vouchers approved by the Comptroller General of the United States, $31,527,000, of which $12,300,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022.

CAPITOL POLICE BUILDINGS, GROUNDS AND SECURITY
For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Botanic Garden and the nurseries, buildings, grounds, and collections; and purchase and exchange, maintenance, repair, and operation of a passenger motor vehicle, $93,000,000.

BOTANIC GARDEN
For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Botanic Garden and the nurseries, buildings, grounds, and collections; and for upgrade of the Legislative Branch Financial Database and activities related thereto: Provided, That the Architect of the Capitol may obligate and expend any funds derived from collections credited to this appropriation during fiscal year 2018, and shall remain available until expended, under the Act of June 28, 1902 (chapter 30, 32 Stat. 300), and not more than $350,000 shall be derived from collections during fiscal year 2018 and shall remain available until expended for the development and maintenance of an international legal information database and activities related thereto: Provided, That the Library of Congress may not obligate and expend any funds derived from collections under the Act of June 28, 1902, in excess of the amount authorized for obligation or expenditure in appropriation Acts: Provided further, That the total amount available for obligation shall be reduced by the amount by which collections are less than $6,350,000: Provided further, That not more than $100,000 of the amount appropriated is available for the Overseas Field Offices: Provided further, That, of the total amount appropriated, not more than $12,000 may be expended, on the certification of the Librarian of Congress, in connection with official representation and reception expenses for the Overseas Field Offices: Provided further, That, of the total amount appropriated, not more than $8,653,000 shall remain available until expended for the digital collections and educational curricula program: Provided further, That, of the total amount appropriated, not more than $1,300,000 shall remain available until expended for upgrade of the Legislative Branch Financial Management System.

COPYRIGHT OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES
For all necessary expenses of the Copyright Office, $72,011,000, of which not more than $20,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be derived from collections credited to this appropriation during fiscal year 2018 under section 708(d) of title 17, United States Code: Provided, That not more than $100,000 of the amount appropriated is available for the maintenance of an “International Copyright Institute” in the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress for the purpose of training nationals of developing countries in intellectual property laws and policies: Provided further, That not more than $6,000 shall be derived from collections during fiscal year 2018 under sections 111(d)(2), 119(b)(3), 803(e), 105, and 116 of such title: Provided further, That the total amount available for obligation shall be reduced by the amount by which collections are less than $41,305,000: Provided further, That not more than $6,000,000 of the amount credited to this appropriation is available for the Overseas Field Offices: Provided further, That $2,260,000 shall be derived from prior year unobligated balances: Provided further, That not more than $6,500 may be expended, on the certification of the Librarian of Congress, in connection with official representation and reception expenses for the Overseas Field Offices: Provided further, That, notwithstanding any provision of chapter 8 of title 17, United States Code, amounts made available for expenses which are attributable to royalty fees and payments received by the Copyright Office pursuant
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE  July 26, 2017

H6392

to sections 111, 119, and chapter 10 of such title may be used for the costs incurred in the administra-
tion of the Copyright Royalty Judges pro-
gram, with the exception of the costs of salaries and
benefits for the Copyright Royalty Judges and
staff under section 802(e).

CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For all necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 203 of the Legislative Reor-
ganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 166) and to rev-
ise and extend the Annnotated Constitution of the
United States of America, $111,474,000: Pro-
dvided, That no part of such amount may be used to
pay any salary or expense in connection with
any publication, or preparation of material
therefor (except the Digest of Public General
Bills), to be issued by the Library of Congress
unlesssuch publication has been obtained prior to
reproval of either the Committee on House Admin-
istration of the House of Representatives or the
Committee on Rules and Administration of the
Senate.

BOOKS FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY
HANDICAPPED

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For all necessary expenses to carry out the
Act of March 3, 1931 (chapter 400; 46 Stat. 1487; 2
U.S.C. 154): Provided, That no part of the total
amount appropriated, $650,000 shall be
available for paper copies of the permanent edi-
tions of the Congressional Record unless Congress
shall appropriate such funds for the purpose.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

REIMBURSABLE AND REVOLVING FUND ACTIVITIES

SEC. 1201. (a) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year
2018, the obligatory authority of the Library of
Congress for the activities described in sub-
section (b) may not exceed $190,642,600.
(b) ACTIVITIES.—The activities referred to in
subsection (a) are reimbursable and revolving
fund activities that are funded from sources other
than appropriations Acts, and none of the funds
appropriated or made available under this
Act shall be used for the payment of
obligations incurred under the appropriations
Acts for similar purposes for preceding fiscal years:
Provided further, That this appropriation shall be available for the payment
of obligations incurred under the appropriations
Acts for similar purposes for preceding fiscal years:
Provided further, That notwithstanding the 2-
year line item for Title 5, United States Code, none of the funds appropriated or made available under this Act or any other Act for printing and binding and related services provided to Congress under chapter 7 of
section 103, United States Code, may be expended to print a document, report, or publication after the 27-month period beginning on the date that such document, report, or publication is autho-
rized by Congress to be printed, unless Congress
reauthorizes such printing in accordance with
section 716 of title 44, United States Code.

GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

CONGRESSIONAL PUBLISHING

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For authorized publishing of congressional in-
formation and the distribution of congressional
information, in any format, in accordance with
Government publications authorized by law to be
distributed to Members of Congress; and pub-
lishing, and distribution of Government publica-
tions authorized by law to be distributed without
charge to the recipient, $79,528,000: Pro-
dvided, That this appropriation shall not be
available for paper copies of the permanent edi-
tions of the Congressional Record for either
the House of Representatives, Senate, or Con-
mmons:
Provided further, That not more than $7,500
may be expended on the certification of the
Director of the Government Printing Office in
connection with official representation and recep-
tion expenses: Provided further, That the business
operations revolving fund shall be available for the hire or purchase of not more than
6,400 additional passenger motor vehicles;
Provided further, That expenditures in connection with trav-
el expenses of the advisory councils to the Direc-
tor of the Government Printing Office shall be
denied: Provided further, That the business
operations revolving fund shall be available for the hire or purchase of not more than
12 additional passenger motor vehicles: Pro-
duced further, That expenditures in connection with travel
expenses of the advisory councils to the Direc-
tor of the Government Printing Office shall be
denied:

GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE BUSINESS

OPERATIONS REVOLVING FUND

For payment to the Government Publishing
Office Business Operations Revolving Fund,
$8,540,000, to remain available until expended,
for information technology development and fac-
ilities repair: Provided, That the Government
Publishing Office is hereby authorized to make
such expenditures, within the limits of funds
available and in accordance with law, and to
make such contracts and commitments without
regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by
section 716 of title 44, United States Code, as
may be necessary in carrying out the programs
and purposes set forth in the budget for the cur-
rent fiscal year for the Government Publishing
Office Business Operations Revolving Fund:
Provided further, That not more than $7,500
may be expended on the certification of the Di-
rector of the Government Printing Office in
connection with official representation and recep-
tion expenses: Provided further, That the business
operations revolving fund shall be available for the hire or purchase of not more than
6,400 additional passenger motor vehicles;
Provided further, That expenditures in connection with trav-
el expenses of the advisory councils to the Direc-
tor of the Government Printing Office shall be
denied: Provided further, That the business
operations revolving fund shall be available for the hire or purchase of not more than
12 additional passenger motor vehicles: Pro-
duced further, That expenditures in connection with travel
expenses of the advisory councils to the Direc-
tor of the Government Printing Office shall be
denied:

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Government Ac-
countability Office, and clerk of the Senate, not
more than $12,500 to be expended on the certifica-
tion of the Comptroller General of the United States in con-
nection with official representation and recep-
tion expenses; temporary or intermittent services
under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code,
but at rates for individuals not more than
the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic
pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule under
section 5315 of such title; hire of one passenger
motor vehicle; advance payments in foreign
countries in accordance with section 3312 of title
31, United States Code; benefits comparable to
those payable under sections 901(5), (6), and (8) of
the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C.
4081(5), (6), and (8)); and travel expenses pre-
scribed by the Comptroller General of the United
States, rental of living quarters in foreign coun-
dies, $54,505,919: Provided, That, in addition,
the Comptroller General is hereby authorized to
make such expenditures, within the limits of funds
available and in accordance with law, and to
make such contracts and commitments without
regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by
section 716 of title 44, United States Code, as
may be necessary in carrying out the programs
and purposes set forth in the budget for the cur-
rent fiscal year for the Government Publishing
Office Business Operations Revolving Fund:
Provided further, That not more than $7,500
may be expended on the certification of the Di-
rector of the Government Printing Office in
connection with official representation and recep-
tion expenses: Provided further, That the business
operations revolving fund shall be available for the hire or purchase of not more than
6,400 additional passenger motor vehicles;
Provided further, That expenditures in connection with trav-
el expenses of the advisory councils to the Direc-
tor of the Government Printing Office shall be
denied: Provided further, That the business
operations revolving fund shall be available for the hire or purchase of not more than
12 additional passenger motor vehicles: Pro-
duced further, That expenditures in connection with travel
expenses of the advisory councils to the Direc-
tor of the Government Printing Office shall be
denied:

OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER TRUST FUND

For a payment to the Open World Leadership
Center Trust Fund for financing activities of the
Open World Leadership Center under section
213 of the Legislative Restructuring Act, 2001
(2 U.S.C. 1151), $4,600,000: Provided, That
funds made available to support Russian
participants shall only be used for those engag-
ing in free market development, humanitarian
activities, and civic engagement, and shall not be
used for officials of the central government of
Russia.

JOHN C. STEFFINS CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE
TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

For payment to the John C. Stennis Center for
Public Service Development Trust Fund estab-
lished under section 116 of the John C. Steffins
Center for Public Service Training and Develop-
ment Act (2 U.S.C. 1105), $40,000.

TITLE II

GENERAL PROVISIONS

MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF PRIVATE VEHICLES

SEC. 201. No part of the funds appropriated in
this Act shall be used for the maintenance or
care of private vehicles, except for emergency
assistance and cleaning as may be provided
under regulations relating to parking facilities
for the House of Representatives issued by the
Committee on House Administration and for the
Senate issued by the Committee on Rules and
Administration.

FULL YEAR LIMITATION

SEC. 202. No part of the funds appropriated in
this Act shall remain available for obligation be-
ond fiscal year 2018 unless expressly so pro-
vided in this Act.

LAW OF COMPENSATION AND DESIGNATION

SEC. 203. Whenever in this Act any office or
position not specifically established by the Leg-
islative Pay Act of 1929 (46 Stat. 32 et seq.) is
appropriated for or the rate of compensation or
allowances for any officer or employee appro-
priated for is different from that specifically es-
blished by such Act, the rate of compensation and
the designation in this Act shall be the per-
manent law with respect thereto: Provided, That
the provisions in this Act for the various items
of official expenses of Members, officers, and
committees of the Senate and House of Repre-
sentatives, and Members of the House of Representatives shall be the permanent law with respect thereto.
CONSULTING SERVICES
Section 204. The expenditure of any appropriation under this Act for any consulting service through procurement contract, under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditure are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except where otherwise provided under existing law, or under existing Executive order issued under existing law.

COSTS OF LBFMC
Section 205. Amounts available for administrative expenses of any legislative branch entity which participates in the Legislative Branch Financial Management Council (LBFMC) established by law, on March 26, 1996, shall be available to finance an appropriate share of LBFMC costs as determined by the LBFMC, except that the total amount shared among all participating legislative branch entities (in such locations among the entities as the entities may determine) may not exceed $2,000.

LIMITATION ON TRANSFERS
Section 206. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by, or determined by, and the implementation of, this Act or any other appropriation Act.

GUIDED TOURS OF THE CAPITOL
Section 207. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), none of the funds made available to the Architect of the Capitol pursuant to this Act may be used to eliminate or restrict guided tours of the United States Capitol which are led by employees and interns of offices of Members of Congress and other offices of the House of Representatives and Senate.
(b) At the direction of the Capitol Police Board, or at the direction of the Architect of the Capitol with the approval of the Capitol Police Board, guided tours of the United States Capitol which are led by employees and interns described in subsection (a) may be suspended temporarily or otherwise subject to restriction for security or related reasons to the same extent as guided tours of the United States Capitol which are led by the Architect of the Capitol.

REFERENCES TO ACT
Section 208. Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to the "This Act" contained in this division shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of this division.

REFERENCES TO REPORT
Section 209. Any reference to a "report accompanying this Act" contained in this division shall be treated as a reference to House Report 115-199. The effect of such Report shall be limited to this division and shall apply for purposes of determining the allocation of funds provided by, and the implementation of, this division.

SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT
Section 210. [Repealed.] This division may be cited as the "Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2018."

DIVISION C—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018
The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes specified.

TITLE I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Air Force as currently authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Air Force determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE
For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Air Force as currently authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Air Force determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS
For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, naval installations, facilities, and real property for the Navy and Marine Corps as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, $1,558,085,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022; Provided, That, of this amount, not to exceed $101,470,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, and as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE
For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Navy and Marine Corps as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $63,535,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022; Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed $4,725,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD
For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Army National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $65,271,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022; Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed $4,430,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Army National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE
For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Air Force Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $61,491,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022; Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed $4,350,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Air Force determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE
For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Navy and Marine Corps as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $63,535,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022; Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed $4,725,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMED FORCES
For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $65,271,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022; Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed $4,430,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Army National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD
For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Air Force Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $61,491,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022; Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed $4,350,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Air Force Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE
For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Navy and Marine Corps as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $63,535,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022; Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed $4,725,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD
For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Army National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $65,271,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022; Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed $4,430,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Army National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION
SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM
For the United States share of the cost of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program for the acquisition and construction of military facilities and installations, (including international military headquarters) and for related expenses for the collective defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Area as authorized by title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $177,932,000, to remain available until expended.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT
For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account, established by section 2906(a) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), $290,867,000, to remain available until expended.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY
For expenses of family housing for the Army for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $366,625,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS
For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for construction, including acquisition, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $293,822,000.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY
For expenses of family housing for the Army for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $182,662,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS
For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for construction, including acquisition, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $83,682,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS
For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $238,282,000.

AIR FORCE
For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $83,682,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE
For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $318,324,000.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND
For the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund, $2,726,000, to remain available until expended, for unaccompanied housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2803 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving unaccompanied housing and supporting facilities.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS
SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this title shall be expended for payments under a contract estimated by the Government to exceed $50,000,000, except as otherwise determined by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 102. Funds made available in this title for construction shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles.

SEC. 103. Funds made available in this title for construction may be used for advances to the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, for the construction of access roads as authorized by section 210 of title 23, United States Code, when projects authorized therein are certified as important to the national defense by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to begin construction of new bases in the United States for which specific appropriations are made.

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for purchase of land or land easements in excess of 100 percent of the value of the property included in the certification of the Army Corps of Engineers or the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, except: (1) where there is a determination of value by a Federal court; (2) purchases negotiated by the Attorney General to avoid delay by the Attorney General; (3) where the estimated value is less than $25,000; or (4) as otherwise determined by the Secretary of Defense to be in the public interest.

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used to: (1) acquire land; (2) provide for site preparation; or (3) install utilities for any family housing, except housing for which funds have been made available in annual Acts making appropriations for military construction.

SEC. 107. None of the funds made available in this title for minor construction may be used to transfer or relocate any activity from one base to another without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 108. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated for acquisition of any construction project or activity for which American steel producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been denied the opportunity to compete for such procurement.

SEC. 109. None of the funds made available to the Department of Defense for military construction or family housing during the current fiscal year may be used to pay real property taxes in any foreign nation.

SEC. 110. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to initiate a new installation or expansion without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available in this title for construction may be obligated for any additional amount for which construction is to be undertaken, except as otherwise determined by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 112. None of the funds made available in this title for military construction in the United States territories and possessions in the Pacific area, or for the construction of any base in the Arabian Gulf, may be used to award any contract estimated by the Government to exceed $1,000,000 to a foreign contractor:

Provided, That this section shall not be applicable to contract awards for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a United States contractor meets the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a foreign contractor by greater than 20 percent: Provided further, That this section shall not apply to contract awards for military construction on Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

SEC. 113. The Secretary of Defense shall in accordance with appropriations in both Houses of Congress, including the Committees on Appropriations, of plans and scope of any proposed military exercise involving United States armed forces for any period of time, except temporary or permanent, are anticipated to exceed $50,000.

SEC. 114. Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for construction in prior years shall be available for construction authorized for each such military department by the authorities enacted into law during the current session of Congress.

SEC. 115. For military construction or family housing projects that are anticipated to be completed, and funds otherwise expired or lapsed for obligation, expired or lapsed funds may be used to pay the cost of associated supervision, inspection, overhead, engineering, and administrative funds on and subsequent claims, if any.

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds made available to a military department or defense agency for the construction of military projects may be obligated for a military construction project or contract, or for any portion of such a project or contract, at any time before the end of the fourth fiscal year after the fiscal year for which funds for such project were made available, if the funds obligated for such project (1) are obligated from funds available for military construction projects; and (2) do not exceed the amount appropriated for such project, plus any amount by which the cost of such project is increased pursuant to law.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)
SEC. 117. Subject to 30 days prior notification, and 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2803 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, such additional amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense are transferred to: (1) the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction in “Family Housing” authorized by law, to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund; or (2) the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction of military unaccompanied housing in “Military Construction” accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund:

Provided, That appropriations made available to the Funds shall be available to cover the costs, as defined in section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of direct loans or loan guarantees issued by the Department of Defense pursuant to the provisions of subsection 11 of chapter 109 of title 10, United States Code, pertaining to alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing, military unaccompanied housing, and supporting facilities.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)
SEC. 118. In addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense, amounts may be transferred from the Department of Defense Base Closure and Realignment Fund established by section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1964,
Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) to pay for expenses associated with the Homeowners Assistance Program incurred under 42 U.S.C. 3374(a)(1)(A). Any amounts transferred shall be merged with and be used for the same purposes and shall remain available until the same time period as the fund to which transferred.

SEC. 119. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this title for operation and maintenance of family housing shall be the exclusive source of funds for repair and maintenance of all family housing units, including general or flag officer quarters, provided that not more than $15,000 per unit may be spent annually for the maintenance and repair of any general or flag officer quarters without out 30 days prior to inactivation, closure, or reprogramming as provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, except that an after-the-fact notification shall be submitted if the limitation is exceeded solely due to costs associated with environmental remediation that could not be reasonably anticipated at the time of the budget submission.

SEC. 120. Amounts contained in the Ford Island Improvement Account established by subsection (b) of section 2814 of title 10, United States Code, are appropriated and shall be available until expended for the purposes specified in subsection (i)(1) of such section or until transferred pursuant to subsection (i)(3) of such section.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 121. During the 5-year period after appropriations available in this Act to the Department of Defense for military construction and family housing operation and maintenance and construction have expired for obligation, upon a determination that such appropriations will not be needed, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Army, may transfer such appropriations for making authorized adjustments to such appropriations for obligations incurred during the period of availability of such appropriations, unobligated balances of such appropriations, or unobligated balances of such appropriation may be transferred into the appropriation “Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense”, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes as the appropriation to which transferred.

SEC. 122. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), none of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to or obligated by the Secretary of the Army to relocate a unit in the Army that—

(1) performs a testing mission or function that is not performed by any other unit in the Army and is specified in title 10, United States Code; and

(2) is located at a military installation at which the total number of members of the regular and reserve components of the Army assigned to the installation exceeds 10 percent of the total number of members of the regular and reserve components of the Army assigned to the installation.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply if the Secretary of the Army certifies to the Committees on Appropriations that in proposing the relocation of the unit of the Army, the Secretary complied with Army Regulation 5–10 relating to the policy, procedures, and responsibilities for Army stationing actions.

SEC. 123. Amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in an account funded under the headings in this title may be transferred among projects and activities within the account in accordance with the reprogramming guidelines for military construction and family housing construction contained in Department of Defense Financial and Management Regulations 7000.14–R, Volume 3, Chapter 7, of March 2011, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 124. None of the funds made available in this title for design and construction of projects at Arlington National Cemetery, for the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as authorized by section 107 and chapter 31, 33, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; or for any other purpose authorized by the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 541 et seq.) and other benefits as authorized by sections 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106, and chapters 23, 31, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, $95,768,462,000, to remain available until expended and be available on October 1, 2018: Provided, That not more than $3,500,000,000 of the amount made available for fiscal year 2019 under this heading shall be reimbursed to the “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”, and “Information Technology Systems” for necessary expenses in implementing the provisions of chapter 71, title 38, United States Code, for the funding source for which is specifically provided as the “Compensation and Pensions” appropriation: Provided further, That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to “Medical Care Collections Fund” to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to veterans as authorized.

READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

For the payment of readjustment and rehabilitation benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 12, 13, and 21, title 38, United States Code, $11,832,175,000, to remain available until expended and to become available on October 1, 2018: Provided, That expenses for rehabilitation program services and assistance which the Secretary is authorized to provide under subsection (a) of section 3610 or title 38, United States Code, other than under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of that subsection, shall be charged to this account.

VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

For military and naval insurance, national service life insurance, service-disabled veterans insurance, and veterans mortgage life insurance as authorized by chapters 19 and 21, title 38, United States Code, $121,529,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that became available on October 1, 2017, of which $109,000,000 shall become available on October 1, 2018.

VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by subparagraphs (a) through (h) of section 3706, title 38, United States Code: Provided, That expenses for the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: Provided further, That, during fiscal year 2018, within the resources available, not to exceed $500,000 in gross obligations for direct loans are authorized for specially adapted housing loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, $178,626,000.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans, $30,000, as authorized by chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code: Provided, That, in order to meet the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: Provided further, That, funds made available under this heading are to be used to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed $2,356,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, $21,529,000, which shall be paid to the appropriation for “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as authorized by section 107 and chapter 31, 33, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 15, 31, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; payments to veterans enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Entitlement Program for Survivors, emergency and other officers’ retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and certificates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies guaranteed under the provisions of title IV of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 541 et seq.) and other benefits as authorized by sections 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106, and chapters 23, 31, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, $95,768,462,000, to remain available until expended and be available on October 1, 2018: Provided, That not to exceed $17,882,000 of the amount made available for fiscal year 2019 under this heading shall be reimbursed to “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”, and “Information Technology Systems” for necessary expenses in implementing the provisions of chapters 12, 13, 21, and 53, 55, and 61, title 38, United States Code, for the funding source for which is specifically provided as the “Compensation and Pensions” appropriation: Provided further, That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to “Medical Care Collections Fund” to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to veterans as authorized.
NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN
— PROGRAM ACCOUNT
For administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program authorized by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, $1,163,000.

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION
For necessary operating expenses of the Veterans Benefits Administration, not otherwise provided for, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, and reimbursement of the Department of Defense for the cost of overseas employee mail, $2,894,000,000: Provided, That expenses for services and assistance authorized under paragraph (11) of section 3004 of title 38, United States Code, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines are necessary to enable entitled veterans: (1) to the maximum extent possible, to maintain and maintain suitable employment; or (2) to achieve maximum independence in daily living, shall be charged to this account: Provided further, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2017; and, in addition, $7,239,156,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available under this heading on and after October 1, 2018, under this heading, $100,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE
For necessary expenses in the administration of the medical, hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, construction, supply, and research activities, as authorized by section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, and the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 2651 et seq.), $284,397,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that became available on October 1, 2017; and, in addition, $3,384,704,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2018, and shall remain available until September 30, 2019: Provided, That the amount made available on October 1, 2018, under this heading, $2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

MEDICAL FACILITIES
For necessary expenses for the maintenance and operation of hospitals, nursing homes, domiciliary facilities, and other necessary facilities of the Veterans Health Administration; for administrative expenses in support of planning, design, project management, real property acquisition and disposition, construction, and renovation of capital facilities, and acquisition and use of the use of the Department; for oversight, engineering, and architectural activities not charged to project costs; for repairing, altering, and improving hospitals and homes under the jurisdiction of the Department, not otherwise provided for, either by contract or by the hire of temporary employees; for leases of facilities; and for laundry services; $1,079,795,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that became available on or after October 1, 2017; and, in addition, $5,914,288,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2018, under this heading, $250,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2020.

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH
For necessary expenses in carrying out programs of medical and prosthetic research and development as authorized by chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, $996,228,000, plus reimbursements, shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION
For necessary expenses of the National Cemetery Administration for operations and maintenance, construction, and repair, alteration or improvement of facilities under the jurisdiction of the National Cemetery Administration, $306,193,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
— INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS
For necessary operating expenses of the Departmental Administration, not otherwise provided for, including administrative expenses in support of Department-wide capital planning, management and policy activities, uniforms, or allowances therefor; not to exceed $25,000 for official reception and representation expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and reimbursements under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, for security guard services, $346,851,000, of which not to exceed 5 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2019: Provided, That funds provided under this section may be transferred to “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”.

BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS
For necessary operating expenses of the Board of Veterans Appeals, $2,000,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS
— INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS
For necessary expenses for information technology systems and telecommunications support, including developmental information systems and operational information systems; for pay and associated costs; and for the capital asset acquisition of information technology systems, including management and related contractual costs of said acquisitions, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, $4,135,500,000, plus reimbursements, of which not to exceed $36,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019: Provided further, That $2,486,650,000 shall be for operations and maintenance, of which not to exceed $174,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019: Provided further, That amounts made available for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement may be transferred among the three subaccounts after the Secretary of Veterans Affairs requests the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a certification of the amounts, in parts or in full, to be obligated and expended for each development project: Provided further, That amounts made available for the “Information Technology Systems” account for development, modernization, and enhancement may be transferred among projects or to newly defined projects: Provided further, That no project may be funded to the extent that expenditures for a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed: Provided further, That funds under this heading may be used by the Interagency Program Office to define data standards, code sets, and value sets used to enable interoperability: Provided further, That, of the funds made available for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement for the development of an electronic health record, not more than 25 percent may be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress:

(1) a detailed explanation of the solicitation submitted to Cerner Corporation for development of an electronic health record for the Department of Veterans Affairs;
SEC. 207. Appropriations available in this title (including transfer of funds) to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the amount and purpose of the transfer: Provided, further, that any transfers among the ‘‘Medical Services’’, ‘‘Medical Community Care’’, ‘‘Medical Support and Compliance’’, and ‘‘Medical Facilities’’ accounts referred to in the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: Provided further, the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the amount and purpose of the transfer: Provided further, that any transfers among the ‘‘Medical Services’’, ‘‘Medical Community Care’’, ‘‘Medical Support and Compliance’’ accounts of 1 percent or less of the total amount appropriated to the account in this or any other Act may take place subject to notification from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the amount and purpose of the transfer: Provided further, that any transfers among the ‘‘Medical Services’’, ‘‘Medical Community Care’’, ‘‘Medical Support and Compliance’’ accounts of any persons (except beneficiaries entitled to such benefits under the laws providing such benefits to veterans, and of any persons (except beneficiaries entitled to such benefits under the laws providing such benefits to veterans, and...
Veterans Affairs shall, from the National Service Life Insurance Fund under section 1920 of title 38, United States Code, the Veterans’ Special Life Insurance Fund under section 1923 of title 38, United States Code, and the United States Government Life Insurance Fund under section 1955 of title 38, United States Code, reimburse the “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” and “Information Technology Systems” accounts for the cost of administration of the insurance programs financed through those accounts: Provided, That reimbursement shall be made from the Executive Budget only from surplus earnings accumulated in such an insurance program during fiscal year 2018 that are available for such program and from which claims have been paid and actuarially determined reserves have been set aside: Provided further, That the cost of administration of such an insurance program and the surplus earnings accumulated in such program, reimbursement shall be made only to the extent of such surplus earnings: Provided further, That the Secretary shall determine the cost of administration for fiscal year 2018 which is properly allocable to the provision of each such insurance program and to the provision of any total disability income insurance included in that insurance program.

SEC. 209. Amounts deducted from enhanced-use lease proceeds to reimburse an account for expenses incurred in the fiscal year immediately prior to the fiscal year in which the proceeds are received may be obligated by the Secretary during the fiscal year in which such amounts are received.

SEC. 210. Funds available in this title or funds available in any other debt due the United States, the remainder of any total disability income insurance included in that insurance program.

SEC. 211. No funds of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be available for hospital care, nursing home care, or medical services provided to any person under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, for a non-service-connected disability described in section 1720a(2) of such title, unless that person has disclosed to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in such form as the Secretary may require, current, accurate third-party program information and the status of all claims for such care or services from any person who does not make such disclosure as required: Provided further, That any amounts so recovered for care or services provided to any person under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, for a non-service-connected disability described in section 1720a(2) of such title, and the amounts received by the Secretary during the fiscal year in which such amounts are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 212. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any amounts derived from enhanced-use leasing activities (including dispositions) may be deposited into the “Construction, Major Projects” and “Construction, Minor Projects” accounts and be used for construction (including site acquisition and disposition), alterations, and improvements of any medical facilities, nursing homes, and equipment, and for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such sums as are realized are in addition to the amount provided for in “Construction, Major Projects” and “Construction, Minor Projects” accounts.

SEC. 213. Amounts made available under “Medical Services” are available—

(1) for furnishing recreational facilities, supplies, and equipment; and

(2) for funeral expenses, burial expenses, and other expenses incidental to funerals and burials for beneficiaries receiving care in the Department.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 214. Such sums as may be deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the “Medical Services” and “Medical Community Care” accounts to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 215. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into agreements with Federally Qualified Health Centers in the State of Alaska and other Indian Health Service facilities which are party to the Alaska Native Health Compact with the Indian Health Service, to provide healthcare, including behavioral health and dental care, to Alaska Natives. The Secretary shall require participating veterans and facilities to comply with all appropriate rules and regulations, as established by the Secretary. The Secretary shall ensure that the lands which are within the boundaries of the municipality of Anchorage or the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 216. Such sums as may be deposited to the Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Fund pursuant to section 8118 of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the “Construction, Minor Projects” accounts, to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 217. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the financial status of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the preceding quarter: Provided, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the paragraph under the heading “General Administration” in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 114-223.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 218. Amounts made available under the “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, “Medical Facilities”, “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”, “Board of Veterans Appeals”, “General Administration”, and “National Cemetery Administration” accounts for fiscal year 2018 may be transferred to the “General Administration” and “Information Technology Systems” account: Provided, That such transfers may not result in a more than 10 percent aggregate increase in the total amount made available to the “Information Technology Systems” account: Provided further, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 219. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2018 for “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, “Medical Facilities”, “Construction, Minor Projects”, and “Information Technology Systems”, up to $297,137,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 3571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): Provided, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: Provided further, That section 222 of title II of division A of Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 114-223) is repealed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 220. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs which become available in any October 1 through September 30 period, “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Medical Facilities” may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 3571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): Provided, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 221. Such sums as may be deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, for healthcare provided at facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500) shall also be available: (1) for transfer to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 3571); and (2) for operations of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500).

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 222. Of the amounts available in this title for “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Medical Facilities”, a minimum of $15,000,000 shall be transferred to the DOD-VA Health Care Services Demonstration Fund as authorized by section 8111(d) of title 38, United States Code, to remain available until expended, for any purpose authorized by section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 223. None of the funds available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, in this or any other Act, may be used to replace the current contracts with the Defense Health Agency for the Defense Health System Networks select and contract for diabetes monitoring supplies and equipment.
SEC. 224. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of any bid savings in a major construction project that total at least $5,000,000 of the programmed amount of the project, whichever is less: Provided, That such notification shall occur within 14 days of a contract identifying the programmatic authority for the project in the original justification data provided to the Congress as part of the request for appropriations unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 225. None of the funds made available for "Construction, Major Projects" may be used for a project that transfers a veterans health care project in the original justification data provided to the Congress as part of the request for appropriations unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 226. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report containing performance measures and data from each Veterans Benefits Administration account: Provided, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the section entitled "Disability Claims Reporting: the Veterans Benefits Administration" in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 114-223: Provided further, That the report shall also include information on the number of appeals pending at the Veterans Benefits Administration as well as the Board of Veterans Appeals on a quarterly basis.

SEC. 227. Of the amounts made available for fiscal year 2018 for the "Medical Services" and "Medical Support and Compliance" accounts, not more than $225,012,000 shall be available to develop an electronic health record: Provided, That not more than 25 percent of the amount made available for such purpose may be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both House of Congress a detailed explanation of the activities to develop the Military Health System Genesis electronic health record to be funded by the Veterans Health Administration rather than the Office of Information Technology, a timeline for completion, master schedule, performance milestones, and an estimate of the lifecycle Veterans Health Administration cost estimates.

SEC. 228. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide written notification to the Committees of both Houses of Congress 15 days prior to organizational changes which result in the transfer of 25 or more full-time equivalents from one organizational unit of the Department of Veterans Affairs to another.

SEC. 229. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an inventory of any single name and van pool arrangement utilized for transport to the Department at which the employee works.

SEC. 230. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, upon receipt of such action, shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of any single name and van pool arrangement utilized for transport to the Department at which the employee works.

SEC. 231. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2018, under the "Board of Veterans Appeals" and the "Veterans Benefits Administration" accounts may be transferred between such accounts: Provided, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

SEC. 232. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not reprogram funds among major construction projects or programs if such instance of reprogramming will exceed $5,000,000, unless such reprogramming is back to that appropriation and shall be available for the same purposes as originally appropriated: Provided, That a transfer may be made if Congress has denied by appropriation and shall be available for the same purposes as originally appropriated: Provided, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

SEC. 233. Of the discretionary funds made available in Public Law 114-223 for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2018, $313,730,000 are rescinded from "Medical Services", $63,282,000 are rescinded from "Medical Support and Compliance", and $22,960,000 are rescinded from "Medical Facilities".

SEC. 234. The amounts otherwise made available by this Act for the following accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs are hereby reduced by the following amounts:

(1) "Veterans Health Administration—Medical and Prosthetic Research", $6,322,000.
(2) "Veterans Health Administration—Cancer", $3,003,000.
(3) "Veterans Health Administration—General Operating Expenses", $2,000,000.
(4) "Departmental Administration—Board of Veterans Appeals", $1,579,000.
(5) "Departmental Administration—General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration", $35,470,000.
(6) "Departmental Administration—Information Technology Systems", $189,000,000.
(7) "Departmental Administration—Office of Inspector General", $7,310,000.

SEC. 235. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall transfer that part of the Secretary's authority relating to the hotline established under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code—

(1) provides to individuals who contact the hotline immediate assistance from a trained professional; and
(2) adheres to all requirements of the American Association for Suicide Prevention.

(b)(1) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enforce or otherwise carry out any Executive action that prohibits the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from appointing an individual to the hotline's civil service position, or establishing a new civil service position, at the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to such a position relating to the hotline specified in subsection (a).

(b)(1) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enforce or otherwise carry out any Executive action that prohibits the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from appointing an individual to the hotline's civil service position, or establishing a new civil service position, at the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to such a position relating to the hotline specified in subsection (a).

SEC. 236. None of the funds in this Act or any other Act may be used to close Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals, domiciliaries, or clinics, conduct an environmental assessment, implement VA health care initiatives, or realign Veterans Health Administration medical facilities located in Veterans Integrated Service Network 8 or 23 as part of a planned realignment of VA services until the Secretary provides to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report including the following elements:

(1) a national realignment strategy that includes a detailed description of realignment plans within each Veterans Integrated Services Network (VISN), including an updated Long Range Capital Plan to implement realignment requirements;
(2) an explanation of the process by which those plans were developed and coordinated with VISN;
(3) a cost versus benefit analysis of each planned realignment, including the cost of replacing Veterans Health Administration services with equivalent care and services;
(4) an analysis of how any such planned realignment of services will impact access to care for veterans living in rural or highly rural areas;
(5) an inventory of all buildings with historic designation and methods used to determine the buildings' condition and utilization;
(6) a description of how any realignment will be consistent with requirements under the National Historic Preservation Act; and
(7) consideration given for reuse of historic buildings within newly identified realignment requirements: Provided, That, this provision shall not apply to capital projects in VISN 23, or any other VISN, which have been authorized or approved by Congress.

SEC. 237. Section 410(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (2); and
(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period and inserting ""); and

SEC. 238. None of the funds made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs by this Act or any other Act may be obligated or expended in contravention of the "Veterans Health Administration Clinical Preventive Services Guidance Statement on the Veterans Health Administration's Screening for Breast Cancer Guidance" published on May 10, 2017, as issued by the Veterans Health Administration National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

SEC. 239. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs by this Act or any other Act may be obligated or expended in contravention of the "Veterans Health Administration Clinical Preventive Services Guidance Statement on the Veterans Health Administration’s Screening for Breast Cancer Guidance" published on May 10, 2017, as issued by the Veterans Health Administration National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

SEC. 240. (a) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of section 3144 of title 31, may use a passenger carrier (as such term is defined in subsection (h)(1) of such section) to transport such an employee between a parking facility and the medical facility of the Department at which the employee works.

SEC. 241. None of the funds made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs by this Act or any other Act may be obligated or expended in contravention of the "Veterans Health Administration Clinical Preventive Services Guidance Statement on the Veterans Health Administration’s Screening for Breast Cancer Guidance" published on May 10, 2017, as issued by the Veterans Health Administration National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

SEC. 242. None of the funds in this Act or any other Act may be used to close Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals, domiciliaries, or clinics, conduct an environmental assessment, implement VA health care initiatives, or realign Veterans Health Administration medical facilities located in Veterans Integrated Service Network 8 or 23 as part of a planned realignment of VA services until the Secretary provides to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report including the following elements:

(1) a national realignment strategy that includes a detailed description of realignment plans within each Veterans Integrated Services Network (VISN), including an updated Long Range Capital Plan to implement realignment requirements;
(2) an explanation of the process by which those plans were developed and coordinated with VISN;
(3) a cost versus benefit analysis of each planned realignment, including the cost of replacing Veterans Health Administration services with equivalent care and services;
(4) an analysis of how any such planned realignment of services will impact access to care for veterans living in rural or highly rural areas;
(5) an inventory of all buildings with historic designation and methods used to determine the buildings' condition and utilization;
(6) a description of how any realignment will be consistent with requirements under the National Historic Preservation Act; and
(7) consideration given for reuse of historic buildings within newly identified realignment requirements: Provided, That, this provision shall not apply to capital projects in VISN 23, or any other VISN, which have been authorized or approved by Congress.
remain available until expended.

For necessary expenses for maintenance, operation, and improvement of Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Home National Cemetery, including the purchase or lease of passenger or vehicles for replacement or one-for-one basis only, and not to exceed $1,000,000 for official reception and representation expenses, $78,800,000, of which not to exceed $15,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2020. In addition, such sums as may be necessary for parking maintenance, repairs, and replacement, to be derived from the “LEASE of Department of Defense Real Property for Defense Agencies” account.

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME TRUST FUND

For expenses necessary for the Armed Forces Retirement Home to operate and maintain the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi, to be paid from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, $22,000,000 shall be paid from the general fund of the Treasury to the Trust Fund.

SEC. 301. Funds appropriated in this Act for Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps are available only if the President subsequently so designates to the Congress.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 501. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligations incurred after the close of the fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 502. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any program, project, or activity when it is determined by the head of the Federal agency or instrumentality to which the funds are made available that the program, project, or activity is not in compliance with any Federal law relating to the protection of private property rights, or un-funded mandates.

SEC. 503. All departments and agencies funded under this Act are encouraged, within the limits of any existing statutory authorities, to fund and expand their use of "E-Commerce" technologies and procedures in the conduct of their business functions and public service activities.

SEC. 504. Unless stated otherwise, all reports and notifications required by this Act shall be submitted to the Committee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Subcommittee on Military Construction, and related agencies funded under this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 505. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for a project or program named for an individual serving as a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the United States House of Representatives.

SEC. 506. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 507. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act shall, subject to subsection (b), provide a publicly accessible Web site of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the interests of the public.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security;

(2) the report contains confidential or proprietary information; or

(3) the head of the agency posting such report determines that such report shall not be made available to the public.

For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”, $31,890,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, for projects outside of the United States: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Air Force” $434,652,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, for projects outside of the United States: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.
tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

Sec. 509. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by an agency of the executive branch to pay for first-class travel by an employee of the agency in contravention of sections 301-10.122 through 301-10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

Sec. 510. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to execute a contract for goods or services, including construction services, unless the contract has been negotiated and the contractor has completed with Executive Order No. 12989.

Sec. 511. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs to lease or purchase new light duty vehicles for any executive fleet, or for an agency’s fleet inventory, except in accordance with Presidential Memorandum—Federal Fleet Performance, dated May 24, 2011.

Sec. 512. (a) In GENERAL.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense in this Act may be used to construct, renovate, or expand any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

c) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any individual who, as of June 24, 2009, is located at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, who—

(1) in the custody or under the control of the Department of Defense;

(2) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(3) (A) in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

REFERENCES TO ACT

Sec. 513. Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to “this Act” contained in this division shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of this division.

REFERENCE TO REPORT

Sec. 514. Any reference to a “report accompanying this Act” contained in this division shall be treated as a reference to House Report 115-188. The effect of such Report shall be limited to apply for purposes of determining the allocation of funds provided for, and the implementation of, this division.

SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

Sec. 515. 80.

DIVISION D—ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT, FEDERAL BUREAUS, AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I
CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

The following appropriations shall be expended by the Army and the supervision of the Chief of Engineers for authorized civil functions of the Department of the Army pertaining to river and harbor development, to include navigation, flood control, flood protection, recreation, and related efforts.

INVESTIGATIONS

For expenses necessary where authorized by law for the collection and study of basic information pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquaculture-related needs; for surveys and detailed studies, and plans and specifications of proposed river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, and aquaculture ecosystem restoration, and related efforts prior to construction; for restudy of authorized projects; and for miscellaneous investigations, and, when combined, for conducting detailed studies, and plans and specifications of projects prior to construction, $105,000,000, to remain available until expended. Provided, That the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations prior to the beginning of the fiscal year 2018: Further provided, That the new study starts shall consist of five studies where the majority of the benefits are derived from navigation reduction, and one study where the majority of benefits are derived from environmental restoration: Provided further, That the Secretary shall not deviate from the new starts proposed in the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

For expenses necessary for the construction of river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related projects authorized by law: for conducting detailed studies, and plans and specifications of such projects, including those involving participation by States, local governments, or private groups, authorized or made eligible for selection by law (but such detailed studies, and plans and specifications, shall not constitute a commitment of the Government to construction): $1,697,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the Secretary, in conducting the investigations or the design and construction of the projects in the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of this division.

For expenses necessary to clean up contamination of both Houses of Congress.

REFERENCES TO ACT

For expenses necessary to the collection and study of basic information pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquaculture-related needs; for surveys and detailed studies, and plans and specifications of proposed river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, and aquaculture ecosystem restoration, and related efforts prior to construction, $3,519,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of eligible operation and maintenance costs for coastal harbors and channels, and for inland harbors shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund; of which such sums as become available from the special account for the Corps of Engineers established by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 shall be derived from that account for resource protection, research, interpretation, and maintenance activities related to resource protection, and in the areas at which outdoor recreation is available; and of which such sums as become available from fees collected under section 217 of Public Law 104–339 shall be used to conduct construction and maintenance of the dredged material disposal facilities for which such fees have been collected: Provided, That 1 percent of the total amount of funds provided for each of the programs, projects, or activities funded under this heading shall not be allocated to a field operating activity prior to the beginning of the fiscal year to which such out-year funding scenario is to be allocated during the fourth quarter any remaining funds which have not been used for emergency activities proportionally in accordance with the amounts provided for the programs, projects, or activities.

REGULATORY PROGRAM

For expenses necessary for administration of laws pertaining to regulation of navigable waters and related matters, $3,000,000,000, to remain available until expended.

FLOOD CONTROL AND COASTAL EMERGENCIES

For expenses necessary to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters and support emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to such disasters as authorized by law, $32,000,000, to remain available until expended.

EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the supervision and general administration of the civil works program in the headquarters of the Corps of Engineers and the field offices of the Corps of Engineers; and for costs of management and operation of the Humphrey’s Engineer Center Support Activity, the Institute for Water Resources, the United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers Finance Center allocable to the civil works programs, $181,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such sums as are not to exceed $5,000 may be used for official reception and representation purposes and

July 26, 2017
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE
H6401
only during the current fiscal year: Provided, That no part of any other appropriation provided in this title shall be available to fund the civil works activities of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, the execution direction, and management activities of the division offices: Provided further, That any Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies appropriation may be used for the execution direction and general administration, certification of emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to any flood, hurricane, or other natural disaster.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY FOR CIVIL WORKS

For the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works as authorized by 10 U.S.C. 3016(b)(3), $4,764,000, to remain available until expended, of which not more than 75 percent of such amount may be obligated or expended until the Assistant Secretary submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a work plan that allocates at least 95 percent of the additional funding provided under each heading in this title (as designated under such heading in the report of the Committee on Appropriations accompanying this Act) to specific programs, projects, or activities.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. (a) None of the funds provided in this title shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by this Act;

(4) reduces funds that are directed to be used for a specific program, project, or activity by this Act;

(5) increases funds for any program, project, or activity by more than $2,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less; or

(6) reduces funds for any program, project, or activity by more than $2,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less.

(b) Subsection (a)(1) shall not apply to any project or activity authorized under section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948, section 14 of the Flood Control Act of 1954, section 208 of the Flood Control Act of 1954, section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960, section 103 of the River and Harbor Act of 1962, section 111 of the River and Harbor Act of 1964, section 104(g) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended in subsection (a), the regulations and guidance in effect under subsection (a), the Administrator and the Secretary of the Army may withdraw the Waters of the United States without regard to any provision of statute or regulation that establishes a requirement for such withdrawal.

SEC. 102. (a) The Corps of Engineers shall submit reports on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress detailing the execution direction, and management activities of the division offices and the amounts appropriated for such program, project, or activity that remain unobligated, except that such amounts may include any funds that have been transferred or reprogrammed pursuant to section 101.

(b) Subsection (a)(1) shall not apply to any project or activity authorized under section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948, section 14 of the Flood Control Act of 1954, section 208 of the Flood Control Act of 1954, section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960, section 103 of the River and Harbor Act of 1962, section 111 of the River and Harbor Act of 1964, section 104(g) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended in subsection (a), the regulations and guidance in effect under subsection (a), the Administrator and the Secretary shall implement the provisions of law under which such rule was issued in accordance with the regulations and guidance in effect under such provisions immediately before the effect date of such rule.

(c) DEFINITIONS. In this section the term “Waters of the United States rule” means the final rule issued by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of the Army entitled “Clean Water Rule: Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’” on June 29, 2015 (80 Fed. Reg. 37053).

SEC. 103. The Secretary of the Army may transfer to the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service may accept or modify such transfers, amounts funded under this title for the execution direction and management activities of the division offices, up to $5,400,000 of funds provided in this title under the heading “Operation and Maintenance” to mitigate for fisheries lost due to Corps of Engineers projects.

SEC. 104. None of the funds in this Act shall be used for an open lake placement alternative for dredged material, after evaluating the least costly, environmentally acceptable manner for the disposal or management of dredged material originating from Lake Erie or tributaries thereof, complying with the applicable water quality certification pursuant to section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1341); Provided further, That an open lake placement alternative for dredged material is approved under a State water quality certification, the Corps of Engineers shall continue upland placement of such dredged material consistent with the requirements of sections 102 and 104 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2211).

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to carry out any water supply reallocation study under the Wolf Creek Dam, Lake Cumberland, Kentucky, project authorized under the Act of July 24, 1946 (60 Stat. 636, ch. 585).

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out any water supply reallocation study under the Wolf Creek Dam, Lake Cumberland, Kentucky, project authorized under the Act of July 24, 1946 (60 Stat. 636, ch. 585).

SEC. 107. Notwithstanding section 404(f)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344(f)(2)), none of the funds made available by this Act may be used to require a permit for the discharge of dredged material under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) for the activities identified in subparagraphs (A) and (C) of section 404(f)(1) of the Act (33 U.S.C. 1344(f)(1)(A), (C)).

SEC. 108. (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of the Army may withdraw the Waters of the United States without regard to any provision of statute or regulation that establishes a requirement for such withdrawal.

(b) EFFECT OF WITHDRAWAL.—Except as otherwise provided by any Act or rule that takes effect after the date of enactment of this Act, if the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of the Army may withdraw the Waters of the United States under subsection (a), the Administrator and the Secretary shall implement the provisions of law under which such rule was issued in accordance with the regulations and guidance in effect under such provisions immediately before the effective date of such rule.

SEC. 109. As of the date of enactment of this Act and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of the Army shall not promulgate or enforce any regulation that prohibits an individual from possessing a firearm, including an assembled or functional firearm, at a water resources development project covered under section 227.9 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), if—

(1) the individual is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing the firearm; and

(2) the possession is in compliance with the law of the State in which the water resources development project is located.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT COMPLETION ACCOUNT

For carrying out activities authorized by the Central Utah Project Completion Act, $3,981,000, to remain available until expended, of which $898,000 shall be deposited into the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Account under this Act and the Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission: Provided, That of the amount provided under this heading, $1,450,000 shall be available until September 30, 2019, for expenses necessary in carrying out related responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior: Provided further, That for fiscal year 2018, of the amount made available to the Commission under this Act and any other Act, the Commission shall use an amount not to exceed $1,300,000 for administrative expenses.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

The following appropriations shall be expended to execute authorized functions of the Bureau of Reclamation:

WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For management, development, and restoration of water and related resources and for related activities, including the operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of reclamation and other facilities, participation in fulfilling related Federal responsibilities to Native Americans, and related grants to, and cooperative and other agreements with, State and local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, and others, $1,601,790,000, to remain available until expended, of which $67,693,000 shall be available for transfer to the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund and $5,551,000 shall be available for transfer to the Lower Colorado River Development Fund; of which such amounts as may be necessary may be advanced to the Colorado River Dam Fund: Provided, That such transfers may be increased or decreased within the overall appropriation under this heading: Provided further, That of the total appropriated, the amount for program activities that can be financed by the Bureau of Reclamation or the Bureau of Reclamation special fee account established by 16 U.S.C. 6906 shall be derived from that Fund or account: Provided further, That funds contributed under 43 U.S.C. 375a shall not be expended for the purposes for which the funds were contributed: Provided further, That funds advanced under 43 U.S.C. 375a shall be credited to the appropriate account and expended for the same purposes as the sums appropriated under this heading: Provided further, That of the amounts provided herein, may be used for high-priority projects which shall be carried out by the Youth Conservation Corps, as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 1796.

CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT RESTORATION FUND

For carrying out the programs, projects, plans, and related activities of the Central Valley Restoration Fund, and acquisition provisions of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, $41,376,000, to be derived from such sums as may be collected in the California Bay-Delta Restoration Fund pursuant to sections 3407(d), 3406(c)(3), and 3405(f) of Public Law 102–575, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the Bureau of Reclamation is directed to assess and collect the full amount of the additional mitigation and restoration payments authorized by section 3407(d) of Public Law 102–575. Provided further, That of the amounts made available for this heading may be used for the acquisition or leasing of water for in-stream purposes if the water is already committed to in-stream purposes by a court ordered decree or other legal restraint.

CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA RESTORATION (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For carrying out activities authorized by the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act, consistent with plans to be approved by the Secretary of the Interior, $37,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such amounts as may be necessary to carry out such activities may be transferred to appropriate accounts of other participating Federal agencies to carry out authorized purposes: Provided, That funds appropriated herein may be used for the Federal share of the costs of CALFED Project (including Program management): Provided further, That CALFED implementation shall be carried out in a balanced manner with clear
Congressional Record — House

H6403

performance measures demonstrating concurrent progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the Program.

POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for policy, administration, and related activities in the Office of the Commissioner, the Denver office, and offices in the five regions of the Bureau of Reclamation, to remain available until September 30, 2019, $59,000,000, to be derived from the Reclamation Fund and be nonreimbursable as provided in 43 U.S.C. 377: Provided, That no part of any other appropriation in this Act shall be available for activities or functions budgeted as policy and administration expenses.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

Appropriations for the Bureau of Reclamation shall be available for purchase of not to exceed five passenger motor vehicles, which are for replacement in the five regions.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SEC. 201. (a) None of the funds provided in this title shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity; or

(3) increases funds for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by this Act;

(b) none of the funds provided in this Act shall be available to implement the Stipulation of Settlement (Natural Resources Defense Council, et al. v. Kirk Rodgers, et al., Eastern District of California, No. CV 95-0846 LKK (GH)), and paragraph (a) of title X of Public Law 111-11;

TITLE III

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ENERGY PROGRAMS

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Provided, That of such amount, $60,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2019, for program direction.

NAVAL PETROLEUM AND OIL SHALE RESERVES

For Department of Energy expenses necessary to carry out naval petroleum and oil shale reserve activities, $4,900,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, unobligated funds remaining from prior years shall be available for all naval petroleum and oil shale reserve activities.

STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for Strategic Petroleum Reserve facility development and operations and transfer of funds pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6260 et seq.), $252,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That as authorized by section 491 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-74; 42 U.S.C. 6239 note), the Secretary of Energy shall drawdown and sell such amount not exceed $550,000,000 of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in fiscal year 2018: Provided further, That the proceeds from such drawdown and sale shall be deposited into the "Energy Secure Reserve Fund" during fiscal year 2018 and shall be made available and shall remain available until expended for necessary expenses in carrying out the Life Extension Project for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

NORTHEAST HOME HEATING OIL RESERVE

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve storage, operations, and maintenance pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6260 et seq.), $6,500,000, to remain available until expended.

NATIONAL FUEL GAS ADMINISTRATION

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out the activities of the Energy Information Administration, $118,000,000, to remain available until expended.

NON-DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses necessary for non-defense environmental cleanup activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, $350,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, $335,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2019, for program direction.

URANIUM ENRICHMENT DECONTAMINATION AND DECOMMISSIONING FUND


SCIENCE

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for science activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, $1,103,908,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019.

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for conducting inquiries, technological investigations and research concerning the extraction, processing, use, and disposal of mineral energy resources and environmental costs (30 U.S.C. 3, 1602, and 1603), $212,000,000, to remain available until expended for science activities in carrying out the purposes of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and title X, subtitle A, of the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

"Energy Secure Reserve Fund": Provided, That of such amount, $60,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2019, for program direction.

"Energy Secure Reserve Fund": Provided, That of such amount, $550,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2019, for program direction.
remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount, $177,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2019, for program direction.

NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for nuclear waste activities carried out in accordance with the purposes of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, Public Law 97-425, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "NWPA"), including the acquisition of any real property or facility constructed, or expansion of any real property or facility acquired, in excess of the amount previously authorized and obligated in prior year appropriations Acts, shall be collected in accordance with section 1702(h) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, excluding amounts for committments made by October 1, 2017, is hereby rescinded.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY VEHICLES MANUFACTURING LOAN PROGRAM

For Department of Energy administrative expenses necessary to carry out the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program, $5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019.

TRIBAL ENERGY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

For Department of Energy administrative expenses necessary to carry out the Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program, $500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

For salaries and expenses of the Department of Energy necessary for departmental administration in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), $1,486,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which, $49,000,000 is hereby rescinded: Provided, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a continuing resolution on the budget for the Fiscal Year 2019.

DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP ACT (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other incidental expenses necessary for atomic energy defense weapons activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility for or plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, $7,000,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, $105,600,000 shall be available until September 30, 2019, for program direction.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other incidental expenses necessary for atomic energy defense weapons activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility for or plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, $5,405,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, $300,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2019, for program direction.
Other Defense Activities

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses, necessary for atomic energy defense, other than those classified in Title II, in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any property or facility, or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, $825,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, $204,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2019, for program direction.

Defense Nuclear Waste Disposal

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for nuclear waste disposal activities to carry out the purposes of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended, including the acquisition of real property or facility construction or expansion, $30,000,000, to remain available until expended.

Power Marketing Administrations

Bonnieville Power Administration Fund

Expenditures from the Bonnieville Power Administration Fund, established pursuant to Public Law 93–454, are approved for official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed $5,000: Provided, That during fiscal year 2018, no new direct loan obligations may be made.

Operation and Maintenance, Southern Power Administration

For expenses necessary for operation and maintenance of power transmission facilities and for marketing electric power and energy, including transmission wheeling and ancillary services, pursuant to section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the Southwestern Power Administration from the sale of power and related services, pursuant to section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the Southwestern Power Administration from the sale of power and related services, pursuant to section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the Southwestern Power Administration, to remain available until expended: Provided, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302 and section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the Southwestern Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: Provided further, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

Construction, Operation, and Maintenance, Western Power Administration

For carrying out the functions authorized by title III, section 302(a)(1)(E) of the Act of August 24, 1939 and other related activities including conservation and renewable resources programs as authorized, $322,276,000, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed $1,500, to remain available until expended, of which $230,251,000 shall be derived from the Department of the Interior Reclamation Fund: Provided, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the Southwestern Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the Southwestern Power Administration, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: Provided further, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

Operation and Maintenance, Southeastern Power Administration

For expenses necessary for operation and maintenance of power transmission facilities and for marketing electric power and energy, including transmission wheeling and ancillary services, pursuant to section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the southeastern power area, $6,379,000, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed $1,500, to remain available until expended: Provided, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302 and section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the Southeastern Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Southeastern Power Administration: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2018 appropriation estimated at not more than $367,600,000: Provided further, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to $51,000,000 may be made.

Construction, Operation, and Maintenance, Western Area Power Administration

For expenses necessary for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to carry out the provisions of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, official reception and representation expenses not to exceed $3,000, and the hire of passenger motor vehicles, $32,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed $367,600,000 of revenues from fees and annual charges, and other services and collections in fiscal year 2018 shall be retained and used for expenses necessary in this account, and shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as revenues are received during fiscal year 2018 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2018 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than $232,276,000.

General Provisions—Department of Energy

Sec. 301. (a) No appropriation, funds, or authority made available by this title for the Department of Energy shall be used to initiate or resume any program, project, or activity or to prepare or initiate Requests For Proposals or similar arrangements (including Requests for Proposals, Requests for Information, and Funding Opportunity Announcements) for a program, project, or activity if the program, project, or activity has not been funded by Congress.

(b)(1) Unless the Secretary of Energy notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 3 full business days in advance, none of the funds made available in this title may be used to—

(A) make a grant allocation or discretionary award totaling $1,000,000 or more of Federal funds or property to a Federal agency or other party; or

(B) make a discretionary contract award or Other Transaction Agreement totaling $1,000,000 or more, including a contract covering the Federal funds or property.

(C) issue a letter of intent to make an allocation, award, or Agreement in excess of the limits in subparagraph (A) or (B); or

(D) enter into an agreement or take any other action with the intention to make an allocation, award, or Agreement in excess of the limits in subparagraph (A) or (B).
(2) The Secretary of Energy shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 15 days of the conclusion of each quarter a report detailing each grant, cooperative agreement, or discretionary grant made by the Department of Energy in the previous quarter, totaling less than $1,000,000 provided during the previous quarter.

(3) The notification required by paragraph (1) and the report required by paragraph (2) shall include the recipient of the award, the amount of the award, the fiscal year for which the funds for the award were appropriated, the account, program, project, or activity from which the funds are being drawn, the title of the award, and a brief description of the activity for which the award is made.

(c) The Energy may not, with respect to any program, project, or activity that uses budget authority made available in this title under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs”, enter into a multiyear contract, award a multiyear grant, or enter into a multiyear Cooperative agreement unless—

(1) the contract, grant, or Cooperative agreement is funded for the full period of performance as anticipated at the time of award; or

(2) the contract, grant, or Cooperative agreement is conditioned on the Federal Government’s obligation on the availability of future year budget authority and the Secretary notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 3 days in advance.

(d) Except as provided in subsections (e), (f), and (g), the amounts made available by this title shall be expended as authorized by law for the Government’s obligation on the availability of future year budget authority and the Secretary notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 3 days in advance.

(e) The amounts made available by this title may be reprogrammed for any program, project, or activity, and the Department shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to the receipt of any proposed reprogramming that would cause any program, project, or activity funding level to increase or decrease by more than $5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, during the time period covered by this Act.

(f) None of the funds provided in this title may be made available for obligation or expenditure through grants that—

(1) creates, initiates, or eliminates a program, project, or activity.

(2) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds are denied or restricted by this Act; or

(3) reduces funds that are directed to be used for a specific program, project, or activity by this Act.

(g)(1) The Secretary of Energy may waive any requirement or restriction in this section that applies to the use of funds made available by the Department of Energy if compliance with such requirement or restriction would pose a substantial risk to human health, the environment, or national security.

(2) The Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of any waiver under paragraph (1) as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 days after the date of the activity to which a requirement or restriction would otherwise have applied. Such notice shall include an explanation of the substantial risk under paragraph (1) that permitted such waiver.

(h) The unexpended balances of prior appropriations provided for activities in this Act may be available for the same appropriation account for such activities established pursuant to this title. Available balances may be merged with funds in the applicable established accounts and thereafter may be accounted for as one fund for the same time period as originally enacted.

SEC. 302. Funds appropriated by this or any other Act, or made available by the transfer of funds in this Act, for intelligence activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Congress, to the extent in the case of any appropriation made under the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094) during fiscal year 2014 until the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2018. (b) The Secretary of Energy may waive the prohibition in subsection (a) if the Secretary determines that such activity is in the national security interest of the United States.

SEC. 303. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to approve critical decision-2 or critical decision-3 under Department of Energy Order 413.3B, or any successive departmental independent assessments of projects where the total project cost exceeds $100,000,000, until a separate independent cost estimate has been developed for the project for that critical decision.

SEC. 305. (a) None of the funds made available in this or any prior Act under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs” may be made available to enter into new contracts with, or new agreements for Federal assistance to, the Russian Federation.

(b) The Secretary of Energy may waive the prohibition in subsection (a) if the Secretary determines that such activity is in the national security interest of the United States.

(c) The waiver authority may not be delegated.

(d) A waiver under subsection (b) shall not be effective until 15 days after the effective date on which the Secretary submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, in classified form if necessary, a report on the justification for the waiver.

SEC. 306. Notwithstanding section 161 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241), upon a determination by the President in this fiscal year that a regional shortage of refined petroleum product of significant scope and duration exists, that a severe increase in the price of refined petroleum product will likely result from such shortage, and that a drawdown and sale of refined petroleum product would assist directly and significantly in reducing the adverse impact of such shortage, the Secretary may sell refined petroleum product from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Proceeds from a sale under this section shall be deposited into the SPR Petroleum Account established under section 127 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6247), and such amounts shall be available for obligation, without fiscal year limitation, consistent with the limitations contained in section 306(g) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1998: Provided, That such amounts shall be available for obligations necessary for the Federal Co-Chairman and the Administrator to fulfill any other provision of law regarding payment of a non- Federal share in connection with a grant-in-aid program, amounts under this heading shall be available for the payment of such a non-Federal share for programs undertaken to carry out the purposes of the Commission.

SEC. 307. (a) DRAWDOWN AND SALE.—Notwithstanding section 161 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241), and in addition to sales authorized in sections 403 and 404 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (42 U.S.C. 6241; 42 U.S.C. 6239 note) and section 5010 of the 21st Century Cures Act (42 U.S.C. 6241 note), the Secretary of Energy shall draw down and sell up to $8,400,000 of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve during this fiscal year.

(b) Proceeds from a sale under this section shall be deposited into the SPR Petroleum Account during this fiscal year and shall be available for the costs of crude oil sales authorized in sections 403 and 404 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (42 U.S.C. 6241; 42 U.S.C. 6239 note) and section 5010 of the 21st Century Cures Act (42 U.S.C. 6241 note), to remain available until September 30, 2019.

SEC. 309. Of the amounts made available under this title, not more than $267,901,000 may be transferred to the working capital fund established under section 652 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7263).

TITLE IV
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES
APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION
For expenses necessary to carry out the programs authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, and for expenses necessary for the Federal Co-Chairman and the Alternate on the Appalachian Regional Commission, including the costs of the administrative expenses of the Commission, including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, and hire of passenger motor vehicles, $15,000,000, to remain available until expended.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD
SALARIES AND EXPENSES
For expenses necessary for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board in carrying out activities authorized by chapter 21 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, $30,600,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019.

DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY
SALARIES AND EXPENSES
For expenses necessary for the Delta Regional Authority and to carry out its activities, as authorized by the Delta Regional Authority Act of 2000, notwithstanding sections 382C(b)(2), 382F(d), 382M, and 382N of said Act, $15,000,000, to remain available until expended.

DENALI COMMISSION
For expenses necessary for the Denali Commission including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment as necessary and other expenses, $11,000,000, to remain available until expended.

NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION
For expenses necessary for the Northern Border Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, $5,000,000, to remain available until expended.
For expenses necessary for the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, $250,000, to remain available until expended.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Commission in carrying out the purposes of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1954, the Atomic Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C. 5841(a)(2)(c), the use and expenditures shall only be approved by a majority vote of the Commission; Provided, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at $779,829,000 in fiscal year 2018 shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, notwithstanding section 201(a)(2)(c) of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, and other support costs for the Office of the Commission, to remain available until September 30, 2019, of which, notwithstanding section 201(a)(2)(c) of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5841(a)(2)(c)), the use and expenditure shall only be approved by a majority vote of the Commission; Provided further, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at $779,829,000 in fiscal year 2018 shall be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund: Provided, That of the amount appropriated herein, not more than $5,300,000 may be made available until expended: Provided further, That of the amount appropriated herein, $2,304,000 shall be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund: Provided, That of the amount appropriated herein, not more than $5,300,000 may be made available until expended: Provided further, That of the amount appropriated herein, $2,304,000 shall be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund: Provided, That of the amount appropriated herein, not more than $5,300,000 may be made available until expended:

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION—SALARIES AND EXPENSES

 SEC. 501. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in any way, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate with Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.

SEC. 502. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to conduct closure of waterfront facilities (as defined in section 4 of that resolution).

NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD SALARIES AND EXPENSES

SEC. 503. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to conduct closure of waterfront facilities (as defined in section 4 of that resolution).

SEC. 504. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

SEC. 505. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to further implementation of the management and ecosystem-based planning and management components of the National Ocean Policy developed under Executive Order No. 13547 of July 19, 2010.

SEC. 506. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the removal of any federally owned or operated dam unless the removal was previously authorized by Congress.

SEC. 507. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to conduct closure of adjudicatory functions, technical review, or support activities associated with the Yucca Mountain project, except for actions that irrevocably remove the possibility that Yucca Mountain may be a repository option in the future.

REFERENCES TO ACT

SEC. 508. Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to “this Act” contained in this division shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of this division.

REFERENCES TO REPORT

SEC. 509. Any reference to a “report accompanying this Act” contained in this division shall be treated as a reference to House Report 115-230. The effect of such Report shall be limited to the introduction and organization of the report and the purposes of determining the allocation of funds provided by, and the implementation of, this division.

SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 510. 80.

This Act may be cited as the “Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018”.

The Acting CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the report. Each further amendment printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be added by the proponent at any time before action thereon, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of...
House Resolution 473, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee to offer amendments to the bill or amendment. The text of the amendment is as follows:

**AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY**

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. CONNOLLY. 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:

Page 183, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $1,022,250)."

Page 189, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by $1,022,250)."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to section 4 of House Resolution 473, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 20 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate.

**AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY**

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I offer the amendment for the purpose of examining broad and discrete issues of executive branch oversight at some point in their career. It is a vital institution that saves taxpayer dollars.

Every dollar we invest in the GAO, Mr. Chairman, generates a $112 return for the Federal Government and for the taxpayer. This oversight dividend amounted to $63 billion in financial benefits for the Federal Government in fiscal year 2016 alone. Unfortunately, the bill before us provides $46.2 million less than the budget request for fiscal year 2018. This amendment would simply restore a modest $1 million of it.

I know that sufficient funding for the GAO has been a topic of discussion and debate between the majority and minority on the Appropriations Committee. I would note that the ranking member raised the issue in the "Additions and changes" section of the committee report.

In the report, Ranking Member LOEY and Representative TM RYAN, who is with us on the floor, stated it is irresponsible to underfund the GAO, especially when administration officials have reportedly been ordered not to comply with Democratic oversight requests.

Which brings me to my second reason for offering the amendment: the indulgent and at times outright adversarial approach the Trump administration has decided to take to normal routine congressional oversight work. The administration has ignored the seven-member rule, for example, an authority enacted into law in 1928, which delegates authority to any seven members of my committee, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to require any executive branch agency to submit any information requested of it relating to any matter within the jurisdiction of our committee.

The Trump administration released an opinion issued by the Office of Legal Counsel, arguing that agencies and departments are not required to submit any information requested of it relating to any matter within the jurisdiction of our committee.

The Oversight and Government Reform Committee is going to grow. With that greater responsibility comes the need to examine broad and discrete issues of executive branch oversight.

The GAO is a vital resource for not only Congressional overseers, but also anyone interested in studying or improving the effectiveness of Federal agencies. The GAO is often referred to as the congressional watchdog. I am sure every Member of Congress has supported or requested a GAO report with the purpose of examining broad and discrete issues of executive branch oversight at some point in their career. It is a vital institution that saves taxpayer dollars.

Every dollar we invest in the GAO, Mr. Chairman, generates a $112 return for the Federal Government and for the taxpayer. This oversight dividend amounted to $63 billion in financial benefits for the Federal Government in fiscal year 2016 alone. Unfortunately, the bill before us provides $46.2 million less than the budget request for FY 2018, which would result in the loss of 200 GAO staff by the end of the coming fiscal year.
I know the lack of sufficient funding for GAO has been a topic of discussion and debate between the Majority and the Minority on the Appropriations Committee. I would note that the Ranking Member raised this issue in the "Additional Views" section of the Chairman’s report for the Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill.

In the report, Ranking Member LOYAL and Representative TIM RYAN stated, "It is irresponsible to underfund the GAO, especially when Administration officials have reportedly been ordered not to comply with Democratic oversight requests."

Which brings me to my second reason for offering this amendment—the indifferent and, at times, hostile approach the Trump Administration has decided to take to Congressional oversight work.

The administration has ignored the Seven Member Rule, an authority that was enacted into law in 1928 which delegates authority to any seven members of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to require any Executive Branch agency to "submit information requested of it relating to any matter within the jurisdiction of the committee."

The Trump Administration released an opinion issued by the Office of Legal Counsel on May 1, 2017, arguing that agencies and departments could ignore requests for documents and other information from Members of Congress other than Republican Committee Chairmen.

On June 7, 2017, Republican Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY wrote a scathing letter to President Trump urging him to reject the opinion issued by Office of Legal Counsel.

The opinion stated that only requests from committees or their chairs are "constitutionally authorized."

Senator GRASSLEY called the opinion "nonsensical." In his letter to the president he stated, "For OLC to so fundamentally misunderstand and misstate such a simple fact exposes its shocking lack of professionalism and objectivity. Indeed, OLC of the United States has utterly failed to live up to its own standards. You are being ill-served and ill-advised."

He also wrote, "Oversight brings transparency, and transparency brings accountability, and what is true is true. Shifting down oversight requests doesn’t drain the swamp, Mr. President. It floods the swamp. And Congress is not blameless here."

As the Vice Ranking Member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, I have witnessed firsthand that Committee’s vote-face on issues of oversight.

Whereas, during the Obama Administration one would have thought that like the British Empire the sun never set on the jurisdiction of the Oversight Committee, now the Majority advances a tortured and narrow interpretation of the Committee’s role as the primary oversight body for the House of Representatives.

If the Administration is going to ignore the Minority in Congress, and the Majority is suddenly the Congressional overseer, the demands on GAO are only going to grow. And with that greater responsibility should come greater resources.

First and foremost, the House should join Senator GRASSLEY and demand that this administration not impede Congressional oversight activities.

In the absence of the administration acceding to this demand, we must send a clear message about the importance of Executive Branch accountability by better funding GAO. This amendment will not solve the GAO funding difficulties created by this bill, but it would send a message to our colleagues in the Senate about the premium we place on the principle of robust oversight of the Executive Branch.

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

[Mr. YODER, Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.]

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

[Mr. YODER, Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for his amendment to add $1 million to the already $545 million that we spend on the Government Accountability Office.]

The GAO plays an important role in ensuring that government agencies are efficiently and effectively spending taxpayer dollars.

They are the sort of watchdog of what happens in this city. And we are all certainly concerned, whether it is a Democrat or Republican President, that we want a GAO that can do its work and to root out fraud, waste, and abuse, provide economic data for Congress, help us to do our job in holding our government accountable, and help the American people hold our government accountable.

That is why we work on this bill, to keep funding steady for the GAO and to help centralize IG reports to make them ultimately public and online to increase transparency. But we have tight constraints on our budget.

Even so, while we work to fund additional security needs, critical infrastructure projects that need to be funded, and much-needed cybersecurity improvements, reducing the amount of money this year, and they have the right to do so. We don't have the authority to do so, and we don't have the ability to do so.

We actually have a slight increase in what the GAO can spend in our budget, getting up to $545 million. So there is a slight increase here, and that is at a time in which many budgets are being decreased across Congress. Many of our constituencies are tightening their belts and learning how to do more with less in the challenges they face putting food on the table for their families and really working in a family budget. We have to do the same thing here in Congress, Mr. Chairman.

The GAO actually gets slightly more money this year, and they have the ability to continue to carry out their function at $545 million. And I don't believe going to $546 million is going to achieve the significant changes that Mr. CONNOLLY would like to see.

Ultimately, we are not able to accommodate this request, Mr. Chairman. Member budgets are already 12 percent below what they were when the Republicans took over the House in 2010.
in this same way. We do not face these threats because we are candidates for office but because we are sitting Members of Congress.

Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND), my colleague from Louisiana's Second Congressional District.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Chair, I rise to support the gentleman from Utah's amendment. I think that it is very appropriate, and, unfortunately, we find ourselves in a time where this is needed. But we have the awesome responsibility, and we have to remind ourselves sometimes that we are the only 435 people in the country that will vote on this country going to war and making decisions that impact this country. Because of that, I think that we need to make sure that we safeguard ourselves in this rising time of new threats and dangers.

Look, we all signed up for public service and to serve our country and to make it a more perfect Union; however, a lot of our families and our neighbors and our constituents that show up at our functions didn't necessarily sign up for that. So for those reasons, I would just ask that my colleagues support it. I think it is a very prudent piece of legislation, amendment, at a very important time.

Mrs. LOVE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRIDENSTINE), my colleague from Oklahoma's First Congressional District.

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Chairman, I rise to thank the gentlewoman from Utah for offering this very important amendment at this time in American history. A lot of us have received threats, and I think this is a good amendment. I would like to thank the gentleman from Louisiana for stepping up to support it as well.

I would like to reiterate the point that this amendment could save lives, and I think we can't put a single penny to the budget, to the debt, to the deficit. This doesn't add a single penny, and yet it could be responsible for saving the lives of our colleagues.

So I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Utah for offering it and the gentleman from Louisiana for supporting it.

I would urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this amendment.

Mrs. LOVE. Mr. Chair, I would like to go ahead and reiterate my thanks to the Appropriations Committee and to my colleagues for all of the support on this amendment.

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I just want to make it unanimous here. I want to thank the gentlewoman from Utah for offering this amendment and Mr. RICHMOND for coming here to support it.

Again, everything has been said. This is appropriate. We are in unchartered waters here. We were at the baseball pickups. We saw what happened to our colleagues.

We go out to events; we can have security. We go to our office; we can have security. You come home, and you can't. So I think that this is appropriate. I want to thank you for taking this issue up on behalf of the body. We have so many Members today that will take opportunities to diminish this body, and you stood up and showed some backbone and voted in the right direction. I want to support this amendment, and I thank the chairman for allowing this to happen.

Mr. YODER. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Utah (Mrs. LOVE).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to amendment No. 1 offered by Mr. Kildee, the Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 115-259.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 176, line 18, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(increased by $250,000)."

Page 167, line 3, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(increased by $250,000)."

Page 167, line 14, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(increased by $250,000)."

Page 176, line 18, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(reduced by $250,000).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is actually quite simple. It would expand the House Wounded Warrior Fellowship Program to ensure that even more wounded veterans have the opportunity to work here in Congress and contribute their talents to our work here.

We need more veterans in public service. This amendment would provide additional opportunities for veterans to continue to serve their country here in the House of Representatives as legislative fellows.

I think we know that these veterans bring a particular perspective and a particular set of experiences unlike anything else we hear, and this promotion of majorly widows is absolutely in the conversations, the discussions, and the deliberations we have on all subjects, particularly on subjects related to their
We do talk a lot about ways to help veterans transition from their service to the world of work following their time in the military. This would increase the number of veterans that are given the opportunity to, right here, work alongside us and to provide us with their perspective.

The amendment is budget neutral and provides additional opportunities for veterans to help us in our work. I think it is the right thing. I urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), the ranking member of the subcommittee.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman.

I think the Wounded Warrior Project we have created in the House of Representatives is a great project. It is a great opportunity, as you articulated, to get people into the legislative process, both in our district offices and here in Washington, D.C., and I want to voice my support for that.

Mr. YODER. Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, even though I do not oppose the amendment.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Mr. KILDEE for his leadership in bringing this to this body's attention.

I think the work of our men and women in service defending our Nation is the highest priority that Congress has, and our support for them in services, in healthcare, in helping them find work, in education, in training, all the things they need when they come home, I think we are unified in our support that they should be recognized as those that they become back and leave service.

Some of these men and women, in putting themselves in the field of battle have become wounded, and sometimes very severely. They have stood in the field of battle. They have stood up to our enemies. They have protected freedom around the globe and here at home, keeping us and our allies, our children, our families safe, keeping freedom and democracy safe; yet, when they come back all too often, they don't have everything they need. All too often, they don't feel that the promises this government has made have been kept. So each and every day I think we are working on legislation to improve that.

We have passed bills in recent weeks here to continue and improve veterans' programs, but the House Wounded Warrior Program is a great example of how this Congress is leading by example by creating 2-year fellowships for disabled veterans. The unemployment rate is higher for these men and women than it is for nonveterans, and disabled veterans in particular, and so this fellowship program provides a valuable job, a valuable experience, an opportunity for these men and women to help serve their country, which is in their DNA. It is who they are.

When they are done serving on the battlefield, they can come serve in our congressional offices, and it provides a great service for us. They provide the opportunity for us to have an expert on not only veterans' issues and military issues, but many issues. They can cover a whole range of things, providing better services for us and our constituents.

In our legislation, the underlying bill, we increased the total number of fellowships to 85 from 54 because there is a waiting list. This is a 57 percent increase over the previous number. And 79 Member offices are on the waiting list right now to participate in this program, so the demand is there.

We certainly know that there are many veterans who would love to serve in this capacity, and so we are excited to support this amendment putting more resources into this program, and we are going to work with the gentleman from Michigan to make sure that we can open up slots in a timely manner to help make sure we get these men and women into the offices so they can serve.

Mr. Chairman, we support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is now to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 115-259.

Mr. PERRY. 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:

Page 176, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert: "reduced by $25,436,000."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.
I also want to highlight the failure of the CBO to forecast the cost of the Medicaid expansion. In 2013, the CBO projected that 34 million people would be on Medicaid or CHIP in 2016; however, in 2016, the CBO doubled, once again, underestimating their earlier estimate to 68 million people. I mean, who gets to be off by that much and still receive—it is not like there is no accountability; there isn’t any accountability, Mr. Chairman.

As a result, in March of 2016, the CBO increased its projection of Federal spending for Medicaid by $146 billion. These are figures that we make decisions on around here.

Mr. Chairman, the CBO simply must be held accountable for its consistent failure to accurately or even reasonably predict budget and economic impacts of legislation. CBO is a critical contribution to our discussion and decisionmaking. We simply need to be able to depend on it as such.

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I have been here long enough to recognize that, at times, the majority party will come to some level of disagreement with the Congressional Budget Office. We were here during the healthcare debate, we were here during tax cuts and all kinds of different things that happened in the last 15 years that I have been here.

They are not perfect, and they sometimes annoy us. As I can tell from my good friend on the other side, he is in the annunciation period with the Congressional Budget Office. But this is an essential component to what we do here.

The Congressional Budget Office sincerely tries to give us the best, most accurate information that they could possibly provide us, and those estimates change over time as circumstances change over time. When you are talking about one-sixth of the entire United States economy, it is going to be difficult to give you entirely accurate information.

But not having this essential service here, I think, would be detrimental to this Congress, detrimental to our ability to lead forecast into the future, and so I oppose this amendment strongly and vigorously.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) who I know also has a strong opinion on this matter.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to this amendment and urge my colleagues to reject it.

Some Republicans in Congress and the Trump administration are engaged in a relentless campaign to tear down the Congressional Budget Office and anyone else who does not tell them what they want to hear. This amendment is a direct assault eliminating half of CBO’s budget.

The CBO is our impartial referee. Its vigorous work has been indispensable for Congress as we consider legislation that impacts the lives of the American people, and it is not good for democracy, and it is not consistent with the principles of good government.

Republicans claim to care about fiscal responsibility, but this amendment would deal a blow to everyone who relies on us to meet that standard.

My Republican colleagues are willing to compromise the integrity of this House solely because they cannot defend the bill repealing the Affordable Care Act. They cannot effectively explain to their constituents why they voted to leave more than 20 million Americans uninsured and dramatically increase the cost of insurance for millions more.

They are unable to justify cutting $1 trillion from Medicaid and jeopardizing care for seniors in nursing homes, children, and families struggling to make ends meet. What they are doing in all of this is to make cuts for the wealthiest Americans.

This amendment is a clear attempt to divert attention from that reality and to hide the truth from the American people. It will set a dangerous precedent.

As students, we would all like to grade our own papers, but we can’t do that in Congress. We have to have somebody impartial who will grade them for us and tell us what their means to our budget and to the American people.

Congress created CBO to give us our own sense of budgetary information and expertise so we would not have to rely on administration estimates. CBO improves our ability to protect the power of the purse. For more than 40 years, the CBO has steadfastly fulfilled its mission providing impartial analysis and expertise to inform our decisionmaking.

The CBO Director and all personnel are appointed to their positions without regard to their political affiliation, solely based on their ability and qualifications. They show no allegiance or deference to any political ideology or party when preparing their analyses.

It is all too easy these days to take refuge in information that tells us only what we want to hear. But that does not lead to good policy. CBO does not exist to give us the information that we want to hear. Its job is to give us the information that we need to make informed, responsible decisions. It is one of few institutions in Washington that serves that role.

It is beneath the Congress to attack the CBO which is only doing its job. It should be embarrassing to my Republican colleagues that they are launching these attacks simply because they do not have the courage to defend the damaging effects of their plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act. This needs to stop.

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I don’t disagree with my colleagues on the other side. I said that. We need the CBO. We created the CBO. Congress needs to have reliable information.

The problem is, it is not reliable. It is not reliable on the testimony that was just given against this amendment.

That is the problem.

The CBO—right now where there are 10.4 enrollees—is telling us in 2 years, there are going to be 25 million enrollees. Meanwhile, there are less exchanges open, and there are fewer insurers available. It is not going up; it is going down.

The CBO, when we say that they would reflect the current time, they absolutely don’t. That is the problem. They don’t even reflect reality when reality is right in front of them. The CBO needs to wake up. Who among us for half the time and gets it doubly wrong and gets the same paycheck?

The CBO.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote for this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question was taken; and the Act is now ordered to be engrossed and transmitted to the Senate for its concurrence.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. 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 Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NUMBER 5 OFFERED BY MR. GRIFFITH

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. GRIFFITH. 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 section B (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 6. The Budget Analysis Division of the Congressional Budget Office, comprising 89 employees with annual salaries aggregating $15,000,000, is hereby abolished. The duties imposed by law and regulation upon the employees of that Division are hereby transferred to the Office of the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH).
Mr. Chairman, I would like to read the amendment because I think there must be some confusion on this, and it will become important later in the debate: “The Budget Analysis Division of the Congressional Budget Office, comprising 89 employees of that division are hereby abolished. The duties”—underlined duties, because it is only duties—“imposed by law and regulation upon the employees of that division are hereby transferred with Office of the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.”

That is the simple amendment, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS).

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Chairman, I thank my esteemed colleagues for raising the issue, but it is more an issue of accuracy than anything else.

As we look at this, Mr. Chairman, it is real easy to look at CBO and realize that they are the one group that makes a weatherman’s 10-day forecast look accurate. They consistently miss it all the time.

When you look at the 2002 farm bill, they missed it by $137 billion. The 2008 farm bill, they missed by $309 billion. Eventually, it adds up to real money.

But even with that, let’s look at the sale of 64 million barrels of oil from the Strategic Oil Reserve. They actually said that it would bring in income from that and that it costs the government to get rid of 64 million barrels of oil. What kind of analysis does that?

So if my friend opposite wants to debate this over the accuracy, I welcome it.

Mr. Chair, it is time that we deal with this.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, we have heard some of the problems with CBO from Mr. MEADOWS. We heard from Mr. PERRY immediately before on his amendment.

The CBO is meant to help Congress evaluate legislation. But I do not believe the agency, as currently constituted, has or can do so effectively.

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Too often, predictions made by CBO turn out to be far off the mark.

We heard about the 2002 farm bill and the 2008 farm bill from Mr. MEADOWS. That is true, but people back home may not realize that, in fact, we don’t do a farm bill every year. We do one roughly every 5 years, sometimes a little later than that, so there have not been so many to score.

One of our favorites on the Energy and Commerce Committee, on which I am pleased to serve, is the fact that, in 2015, we decided we would push forward and sell, as a nation, some broadband spectrum. CBO said zero dollars would be yielded from that sale.

Now, I use this all the time when I am talking to high school students, because you don’t have to be a CBO person living in the ivory tower that they must live in to understand that broadband spectrum has value in today’s society, and zero is not the right score. In the end, it brought in $44 billion. When you take away the costs, it brought in a net $40 billion. CBO was wrong.

CBO has overestimated on a number of things. Mr. PERRY talked about ObamaCare. But time after time, after time, they have gotten things wrong. They said it cost more or didn’t save as much.

In fact, I just saw, today, a report put out by Xcenda that the per-patient oncology drug costs were 0.06 to 2.3 times lower than what CBO said they were going to be from roughly 2003 to 2013, according to that study.

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is breathtaking in its completely overt vindictiveness. Some Members don’t like the calls the refs have made in games. You can have your opposition and your opinion. Here, we are trying to get the referee fired. We cannot function as a group here if we are going to continue to try to demean and criticize this very group that is trying to help us do our job.

As I said a few minutes ago, the Democrats have had a long list of frustrations with the CBO, but did we have the President, the leader of our party, and a significant number of Members of the United States Congress start bad-mouthing the CBO? We did not.

We had our complaints, in all fairness, but we think that this group of professionals is essential to how this body functions.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK), the distinguished chairman of the Budget Committee, if you are not going to just believe Democrats on this issue.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to voice my concerns about this amendment.

I think everyone in this House has a lot of issues, as has already been talked about in this hour-long meeting that is used by the Congressional Budget Office, and I am certainly one of these people, but this amendment is not the best way to accomplish our goal of obtaining better information and analysis from CBO.

The CBO is an important organization that provides vital information that Congress does need to make the best decisions. However, the modeling and scoring methods they currently are using need to be scrutinized, especially their behavioral predictions.

For example, in 2010, the CBO projected that 21 million Americans would be covered by ObamaCare in 2016, when, in reality, less than 13 million Americans have actually obtained coverage. In fact, during their scoring of the House Republican healthcare plan, CBO described their own estimates, which rely on behavioral predictions, as extremely uncertain.

This is why the House Budget Committee plans to hold a series of hearings this fall on CBO to gain a better understanding of their methods and how we can work to improve their ability to give Congress better information, which we obviously need. As chairman of the Budget Committee, I take this responsibility very seriously, and we will approach these hearings in the pursuit of truth and accuracy so we can make laws that better serve the American people.

We all realize that CBO has room for improvement, but this amendment being offered tonight is not the best way to achieve that. Instead, we need to have a deliberative discussion in the Budget Committee and amongst everyone in the House, and I look forward to doing exactly that in the coming weeks and months.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL), the distinguished ranking member on the House Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Chairman, the previous speaker said: How could a group be so far off in their analysis? Well, they were that far off with the Bush tax cuts in 2001 and 2003. Alan Greenspan was certainly off. In his commentary about economic growth, we had the slowest growth since Herbert Hoover was President, based upon $2.3 trillion worth of tax cuts.

So this is analysis. It is an economic forecast. It is not an algorithm. When you pick up the computer, you push a button, and all of a sudden you get a score.

I am in opposition to this amendment because they play a vital role every single day, even when they are not entirely accurate, in keeping a scorecard. Members and staff on both sides, particularly at the Ways and Means Committee, rely much upon the distinguished ranking member on a bipartisan analysis for what they do every day.

I have never, in 29 years in this House, said to a member of CBO: Are you a Republican or are you a Democrat?

When we demean professional achievement from economists who try and strive every single day to come up with an accurate forecast, we do this institution no good. We should have a high regard for what these people do every single day—and let me say this, they are, by far, more accurate than the Office of Management and Budget, in my recollection, who work for Presidents and who, generally, didn’t come up
with forecasts that Presidents might or might not like.

The CBO is an independent agency and we need to keep it here. Congress could not do its work without the CBO. As Tim Ryan said a few moments ago, this is the equivalent of letting up the referee after we don’t like the outcome of the soccer game. Let’s jump the referee and tell him: You better go back in and change the score so that we might meet, perhaps, popular polling forecasts, which I also might tell you, based on what happened in November, weren’t so good, either, for all of us.

Regardless of what political party we are Members of, we should have regard for this House of Representatives and the independent role that CBO offers. Chairman Kevin Brady stands with me on this. Leave the CBO alone.

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

Mr. Ryan of Ohio. Mr. Chair, as the designee of Ranking Member Lowey, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. Ryan of Ohio. Mr.Chair, in yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. Costa).

Mr. Costa. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As one of the three co-chairs of the Blue Dog Coalition, a group of Democrats committed to bringing our Nation’s deficit and debt under control, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

This amendment would, in fact, eliminate the division in the CBO area. Frankly, it serves, as we all know, a valuable role as a nonpartisan adviser to Congress on the costs and tradeoffs on legislation and the budget of the United States.

Although you don’t see these folks on TV every day, the CBO staff consists of professionals who put facts and transparency first. Forecasting the economic impacts of legislation is complicated, and to be perfect, let’s face that. The CBO, though, is transparent about that.

That said, estimates provided by the CBO are objective and are based on facts and transparent calculations. The staff who make these estimates up aren’t swayed by the political rhetoric on either side of the spectrum on the House floor, and that is what lawmakers need in order to govern responsibly.

Without the CBO, lawmakers in Washington would be flying blind, developing major legislation without knowing what the real consequences are. Just like you wouldn’t drive a car while blindfolded, you shouldn’t be voting on legislation without knowing the real costs, intended or unintended. After all, these are taxpayer dollars.

This amendment is dangerous for our Nation, and there is no other way to describe it. As a society, one must accept facts as they are, whether the facts are in our favor or not. Facts are facts, I guess, unless you believe in alternative facts.

In fact, CBO acts as an umpire for us here in Congress, calling balls and strikes as best it can. You may not like the call, you may not like the strike zone, you may think it is simply wrong, but you don’t attack the umpire. This is what this amendment would do to the umpire because you don’t like the call. If you attack the umpire, why don’t you improve your game?

At the end of the day, what we are talking about here is taxpayer dollars. We need to keep the Congressional Budget Office intact. I oppose this legislation, as do all of the Blue Dogs.

Mr. Ryan of Ohio. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Beery).

Mr. Beery. Mr. Chairman, I, too, rise in strong opposition to this mean-spirited amendment.

This attack on the integrity and professionalism of the Congressional Budget Office is shameful and is part of a strategic assault on the objectivity and expertise of the CBO.

With this amendment, the Republicans are seeking to punish the nonpartisan CBO because they don’t agree with their finding regarding the Republican plan to replace Obamacare. I understand that, for Republicans, theRefCount number does not mean you can fire the ref. Partisan talking points cannot replace unbiased analysis.

Let’s not forget the CBO’s Director was appointed by a Republican Speaker and praised effusively by then-Budget chairman and current Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tom Price.

Mr. Chairman, I represent more Federal employees than any other Member of the House. Most of these 89 positions at the CBO that this amendment seeks to eliminate are my constituents. It is simply unacceptable that we somehow suggest that they and others in the civil service are not honest.

The choice to pursue this political attack on the CBO through the so-called Holman rule should concern every Member of Congress. Back in January, when Republicans passed their rules package enabling Members to target individual Federal employees and their pay, I warned that the Holman rule would be used as a way to politically target civil servants. That is exactly what we are seeing today.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment. Mr. Ryan of Ohio. Mr. Chair, let me just say quickly again and reiterate that we are living in a world now where facts are trying to be diminished, science is trying to be diminished, and we rely on these professionals to give us as accurate information as we can possibly get, including from the professionals that are in this office. We rely on this office very much to make the decisions that we make here that have such great importance. While they are not always perfect, I think they always put forth a good product for us.

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

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

Mr. Chair, we have heard from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle that we ought to trust the CBO, that the referee should be taken at their word and that they are doing the right thing because they can. But let’s look at this amendment.

The CBO scored it, and they said: CBO estimates that your amendment would have no net effect on budget authority or outlays in fiscal year 2018.

No net effect. Who here actually believes that eliminating 89 positions, as the gentleman from Virginia, my friend, just said it is going to affect his people, who believes that 89 people being eliminated and $15 million in aggregate salaries has no net effect on budget authority or outlays? I don’t think any of us believe that.

So here is the conundrum that my friends have on the other side of this issue: a “yes” vote means that you agree with me that something needs to be reformed at CBO; a “no” vote means that you agree with CBO’s assessment that this amendment abolishing 89 employees will have no effect. Therefore, I would submit to you that the CBO has, in effect, determined that their budget analysis division has no value. Therefore, if you actually support CBO, you must vote “present.”

Mr. Chairman, I ask my colleagues to join me with a “yes,” and let’s start the reform at CBO so we can get accurate numbers. If you don’t agree with this reform, I ask that you vote “present,” or else you, too, are agreeing with the CBO that the budget analysis division has no value.

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

Mr. Connolly. Mr. Chair, I have great respect for gentlemen who offered this amendment.

They are my colleagues, and they are my friends.

Mr. Meadows and I work very closely together on the Government Operations Subcommittee. He is my Chairman, and he knows I value his collaboration.

Mr. Griffith is a fellow Virginian, and I have the pleasure of serving on committees with Mr. Jordan (OGR) and Mr. Perry (HFAC).

And that is why it especially pains me to say this.

But this amendment, which uses the disengagement rule to eliminate an independent Congressional Budget Office’s Budget Analysis Division, is so transparent and so cynical it makes me want to weep.

This amendment would punish the Congressional Budget Office for exposing the House Republican repeal of the Affordable Care Act and would instead deprive 23 million Americans of healthcare.

CBO is being retaliated against for the earnest work it conducted on the Trump Budget,
which demonstrated that the president’s budget misrepresents deficit projections by $2.3 trillion.

This amendment says facts don’t matter anymore.

And that is something to mourn.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH). The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chair, 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 Virginia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. CICILLINE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. CICILLINE. 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:

Page 176, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by $100,000) (increased by $100,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chairman, my amendment to H.R. 3219 will help ensure that buildings such as the Capitol and the House and Senate office buildings have adequate baby changing tables.

Last year, this Congress passed into law a bill called the BABIES Act requiring that both male and female restrooms in many public buildings be equipped with baby changing facilities that are physically safe, sanitary, and appropriate.

That legislation ensures that there are appropriate and sanitary facilities for parents and caretakers to change the diapers of infants and toddlers in publicly accessible Federal buildings controlled by the General Services Administration.

In the same vein, I was pleased that the Legislative Branch Subcommittee included report language in its fiscal year 2017 bill recognizing the importance of providing designated baby changing stations for members of the public who visited the Capitol complex and encouraging the Architect of the Capitol to take steps to provide baby changing stations at easily accessible locations.

I want to thank my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee and Chairman YODER for their support of these efforts. My amendment today to H.R. 3219 would similarly encourage the construction of safe, appropriate, and sanitary baby changing stations in Federal public buildings controlled by the Architect of the Capitol such as the Capitol complex, the House, and Senate office buildings, the Botanic Gardens, and the Library of Congress.

With millions of visitors coming to Washington, D.C., each year, families are often surprised by the lack of adequate baby changing facilities in public buildings. Currently, there are only nine baby changing stations in the House, one of which are in the Rayburn Building, where my office is located. That means that when Rhode Island families who come to visit my office have to try to find a changing station, they go all the way to Cannon or Longworth, or they have to decide to change their baby on the bathroom floor, which is a terrible option. It is not sanitary either for the parents or for the children.

To that end, changing stations in restrooms in Federal buildings will help in protecting the health and safety of children at a very de minimus cost, about $200 per changing station. This nominal amount will go a very long way toward encouraging a family-friendly environment and ensuring the safety and comfort of our constituents who visit us.

And I want to again thank Chairman YODER and Ranking Member RYAN for their support of this amendment, and I look forward to working with them to help ensure that our constituents are able to have a safe and enjoyable visit to our beautiful Capitol buildings.

Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), the ranking member.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Let me just say briefly that I support this amendment. Making the Capitol complex and other buildings in the legislative branch more family friendly is an important priority. People come here from all over the country to meet with us, to see the sights, and to witness democracy in action.

If you have traveled far and wide with your family like I have, you know how much of a difference that it would make even for a brief part of your day, like the inevitability of having to change a diaper. This amendment will make it a little bit easier. So this is just a very thoughtful, practical pro-family amendment, and I encourage all of our colleagues to vote yes.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. YODER).

Mr. YODER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Rhode Island.

I, too, support the gentleman’s efforts here, and, as a supporter of the BABIES Act, last year, H.R. 5147, I am happy to report, because of the language we included with the Architect of the Capitol last year, they presented a plan, which they are going to move forward with installing additional baby changing stations around campus, 54 of which will be going into House Office Buildings.

And as a father of two little girls, I have used these changing tables myself in restrooms from time to time, as Mr. RYAN has. I know he has got a young son. And so we know how important these are and how families, when they need to make a change, they need to make a change. They need to have a space to do that.

So we need to be family friendly here in the U.S. Capitol and in our House Office Buildings, and so I thank the gentleman for raising this important issue. It deserves attention. I will be happy to continue to work with the gentleman, as well as the Architect of the Capitol, to ensure that adequate number of changing stations are installed around the Capitol complex for families, for the 9 million visitors that come to this Capitol every year, that many of those have families with young children, that they are able to, as well as the Members of Congress like Mr. RYAN and ourselves and many others who have young children, use these changing stations as well.

The Acting CHAIR. (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. TAKANO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, 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 division B (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ___. There is appropriated, for salaries and expenses of the Office of Technology Assessment as authorized by the Technology Assessment Act of 1972 (2 U.S.C. 471 et seq.) $2,500,000, to be derived from a reduction of $2,675,000 in the amount provided in this Act for the item for “Architect of the Capitol, Costal Construction and Operations”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment, which would restore funding to the Office of Technology Assessment, or otherwise known as OTA. I would like to thank my cosponsors, Representatives Esty, Foster, Langevin, Lieu, and Lujan.

The foundation for good policy is accurate and objective analysis, and, for more than two decades, the OTA set the standard for providing relevant, unbiased technical and scientific assessments for Members of Congress and staff.
But in 1995, the OTA was defunded, stripping Congress of a valuable resource to understand both emerging technologies as well as the nuances of the legislative process. In its absence, the need for OTA has only grown. Many of the issues OTA studied 20 years ago are even more pressing today.

Antibiotic resistant bacteria, electronic surveillance in the digital age, and testing in America’s schools, these are the complex challenges our Nation will continue to face, and Congress should have access to the thorough and insightful analysis OTA can provide.

Investing in the OTA now will actually save us money in the future. In the last year it operated, the OTA’s budget was $23 million, but its studies on the synthetic fuels corporation saved taxpayers tens of billions of dollars. Our amendment restores a modest $2.5 million to the OTA account for salaries and expenses to begin rebuilding the office.

The cost is offset by a reduction to the Architect of the Capitol’s construction and operations account. This administrative account will not take resources from specific construction projects.

Mr. Chair, a great surgeon does not operate without modern tools, a master chef does not cook without fresh ingredients, and Members of Congress should not make policy decisions without relevant and unbiased information. And with that in mind, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this amendment, to restore funding to the Office of Technology Assessment.

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. PERRY). The gentleman from Kansas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. YODER. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate my good friend and colleague and co-chair of the Deaf Caucus, Mr. TAKANO from California, for bringing this amendment, and unfortunately, I cannot support it, Mr. Chairman, and we would ask that the body reject it.

You know, Congress terminated funding for the Office of Technology Assessment in 1995, so some 22 years ago, but it is back from the dead to be here on the floor today to be reestablished.

At one point, funding totaled over $20 million for the Office of Technology Assessment, but Congress did one of the things it has attempted to do in many areas, which is try to consolidate government, make government more efficient, make it do more with less, and out this transferred the functions from the Office of Technology Assessment over to the GAO.

We have heard debate on this floor within the last hour about the value of the GAO and the great work they do and how the GAO is a trustworthy organization that we continue to fund them, yet, in this instance, they want to take these responsibilities away from the GAO.

In fact, in fiscal year 2008, a permanent technology assessment function within the GAO was established by a recommendation from the Senate Committee on Appropriations. They allocate at least $2.5 million per year to technology assessments, and they have established the capability to produce technology assessments in many areas. They have hired scientists, engineers, and other technical specialists to respond to congressional requests. They produce three to four technology assessment reports each year. The GAO uses its technical staff to support other reports for Congress that have technology implications, such as privacy and vulnerability of computer components in cars.

The GAO receives three to four requests per year specifically for technology assessments, and many others have a technology as an aspect.

They have made it do more with less, to keep programs efficient, and so the idea that we would have an agency that has been gone for 20 years today and fund it for millions of dollars, to me, is inconsistent with the values we all, I think, espouse about making government more efficient, more effective.

Mr. Chairman, with that, I would oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER), a member of the Science Committee and also a physicist.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Chair, I thank my friend from California (Mr. TAKANO) and my colleagues representatives ESTY, LANGEVIN, LIEU, and LUJAN for cosponsoring this amendment.

Our amendment would provide $2.5 million to revive the Office of Technology Assessment to provide Congress with relevant, timely, and nonpartisan reports on a wide range of issues in science and technology.

This office is no less necessary today than when it was first started in 1972, or when it was defunded in 1995. As technology continues to advance at an increasingly rapid pace and our partisan divide seems to grow deeper, Congress needs this now more than ever.

The OTA did important work in a number of areas, but I would like to highlight just one of those areas in particular.

One of the last recommendations the OTA made was that the U.S. should invest more rapidly to computerized health records and that standards should be put in place to ensure that we now call interoperability.

Had we heeded this advice rather than defunding the OTA, we could have saved hundreds of billions of dollars of taxpayer money and saved hundreds of thousands of American lives by ensuring accurate, up-to-date patient data that was accessible regardless of where the patient turned up for care.

This also could have helped slow or prevent the opioid epidemic by ensuring that patients would not be able to doctor shop to acquire numerous opioid prescriptions.

While we cannot slow down the rapid pace of technology, we can give our country back an important and proven tool.

So I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment to restore this vital source of credible, non-partisan scientific expertise to the U.S. Congress.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I reiterate my support for the Office of Technology Assessment. Congress does not suffer from a lack of information, but it does suffer from a lack of trusted information to help make wise policy decisions.

Today, we do need the Office of Technology Assessment more than ever. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), the question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, 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 California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. SHEA-PORTER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 115-259.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Chair, 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 section D (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to mail any mass mailing (as defined in subparagraph (E) of section 3311(a) of title 39, United States Code) which is larger than 4¼ inches high x 6 inches long x 0.016 inches thick.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman...
Mr. YODER. Mr. Chairman, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, again, I wish our colleagues to understand, if she would come to the Franking Commission, we would be glad to take her ideas into consideration.

But this amendment severely limits the ability of Members of Congress to reach out to their constituents. Members would not be able to send a mailer on official letterhead. Members who budgeted their funds wisely and printed postcards that they then send to their Members that might not fit this size would be a waste of taxpayer dollars because they would not be able to use those.

Also, under this amendment, many end-of-the-year communications that my colleague has sent from her office herself would not be eligible under this amendment right now.

So let's make sure that we have a discussion at the Franking Commission level. We would enjoy debating this issue with Members, Republicans and Democrats, who equally make up the Franking Commission. We would like to take your concerns into consideration, but give us a chance to do that. I urge my colleague to do that in the future.

Mr. Chair, again, I oppose this amendment.

Mr. YODER. 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 Hampshire (Ms. SHEA-PORTER).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. RUSSELL

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. RUSSELL. 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 division B (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to deliver a printed copy of the Federal Register to the office of a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress), unless a printed copy is requested by the Member (or Delegate or Resident Commissioner).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

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

Mr. Chairman, through this amendment, which restructuring the way the Federal Register is distributed to Members' offices, will save approximately $1 million annually.
The Federal Register contains a large amount of information, including proposed rules and public notices, regulations, executive orders, and Presidential documents. This information is compiled by the great folks at the National Archives, and published daily by the Government Printing Office, or the GPO.

Since 1994, the GPO began publishing the Federal Register online. To improve the user experience, the digital version has been enhanced over time and is now fully searchable and downloadable, and is the preferred method that staff and Members use the Register, making for quick access to any document.

Sadly, despite these advances in technology, Members of Congress still receive printed copies of the Federal Register every day. This results in thousands of copies going directly into the trash, costing taxpayers $1 million annually. In another way, Mr. Chair, this means that approximately 96 Americans have to work all year long and pay their taxes so that we can put these Federal Registers in the trash.

This amendment simply prevents the distribution of printed copies to Members’ offices, unless the Member opts in to receiving a copy. Digital copies are already daily distributed.

This amendment is in line with H.R. 196, a bill I introduced, which passed this House unanimously without any opposition, and was cosponsored by Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment so that we can make it law.

Mr. Chair, $1 million is big money in the modern era. If an amendment is offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) for his work, and I ask my colleagues to support the amendment.

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kansas?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Chair, I thank my colleagues from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) for continuing the tradition that he and others, particularly in Oklahoma, have focused on cutting out government waste, finding sometimes small things, sometimes big things, but all things in between that we can reduce, cut or eliminate that saves taxpayers’ money.

Mr. Chair, $1 million is big money in States like Kansas and Oklahoma and across the country. It is real dollars to the pockets to pay their taxes to this country. There are too many million-dollar expenditures that happen in this government that are overlooked and unnecessary because the are not maybe big enough for folks here to take time to pay attention to.

What Mr. RUSSELL is doing today is standing up for fiscal responsibility, for efficiency of government, and for helping the environment. This is wasted printed paper that is unnecessary. I think it is a good government measure that will help modernize and make our government more efficient and effective.

It is consistent with what this House has already done when it passed H.R. 195 earlier, which bars the distribution of the Federal Register to congressional offices and Federal agencies. That is in the Senate being marked up, maybe even tomorrow.

This is a smart amendment. It is the kind of thing that we need to keep doing more of to save money for taxpayers.

Mr. Chairman, I thank Mr. RUSSELL for his work, and I ask my colleagues to support the amendment.

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

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Chair, I appreciate my colleague from Kansas for his kind remarks. I also appreciate the colleagues from the other side of the aisle who have shown continued support for this amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL). The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 11 printed in House Report 115–259.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. BERGMAN

The Acting CHAIR. Mr. Moderator, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition for the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN). I move to strike the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, as the designee of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN).

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chair, I have a question for the chairman of the MILCON Committee about the language in his committee report regarding colorectal cancer screening in the VA.

Mr. Chairman, his report, Mr. DENT encourages the VA to increase colorectal cancer screening in the Department of Veterans Affairs. In the other body, they have language that directs the VA to offer each one of the seven approaches for screening that are currently approved by the United States Preventive Services Task Force and are more closely aligned with other Federal health programs.

Can I assume that the intention is the same and the efforts are aimed at urging the VA to offer all of the approved methods of screening?

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, the gentleman from Wisconsin is correct. It is our intention to urge the VA to offer all of the approved methods of screening.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for that clarification.
Mr. DENT. I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. DENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 473, as the designee of the gentleman from New York (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), I offer amendments en bloc.

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

Amendments en bloc No. 1 consisting of amendment Nos. 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 25, and 26 printed in House Report 115-259, offered by Mr. DENT of Pennsylvania:

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. BARR OF KENTUCKY

Page 219, line 16, after the dollar amount insert the following: “(increased by $5,000,000)”.

Page 225, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: “(reduced by $5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MR. KUHuen OF NEw MExICO

Page 220, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by $1,031,808,000) (increased by $1,031,808,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. BEYer OF VIRGINIA

Page 220, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by $2,500,000) (increased by $2,500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MS. MICHELLE LUIJAN GRESHAM OF NEW MEXICO

Page 220, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by $2,000,000) (increased by $2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MR. NORCROSS OF NEW JERSEY

Page 220, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by $5,000,000) (increased by $5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. KEATING OF MASSACHUSETTS

Page 221, line 25, after the dollar amount insert the following: “(reduced by $5,000,000) (increased by $5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON OF TEXAS

Page 221, line 25, after the dollar amount insert the following: “(reduced by $5,000,000) (increased by $5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

At the end of division C (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 25. None of the funds made available by this Act are revised by reducing the amount made available for “Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental Administration—Information Technology Services” (and the amount specified under such heading for operations and maintenance), and by increasing the amount made available in fiscal year 2014 for “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Services”, by $2,500,000 and $2,000,000, respectively.

AMENDMENT NO. 26 OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY OF VIRGINIA

At the end of division C (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 26. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to charge a veteran a fee for a veteran identification card pursuant to section 5076 (c) of title 38, United States Code, if the veteran uses form DD-214 to apply for the identification card and indicates on the form that the veteran is “homeless”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) and the gentleman from Virginia (Ms. Wasserman Schultz) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, these amendments have been made in order by the rule allowing consideration of H.R. 3219, and their inclusion in the en bloc has been agreed to by both sides.

I support the adoption of the en bloc package, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this amendment and support the en bloc amendments. I appreciate the chairman’s inclusion of amendments from Democratic Members.

The amendments included range from therapy grants to combating opioid abuse. These amendments will deliver better care to our veterans.

The minority has no objection to this amendment, and I urge a ‘yes’ vote on the en bloc amendment.

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

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, I have no further speakers on the amendments en bloc, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER).

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chair, my amendment would direct the Vet Centers to use $2.5 million of the additional funding allocated in the underlying bill to provide outdoor experiences for veterans as part of their continuum of care. This program would support veterans in developing a community of support, to treat combat-related injuries, especially those related to their behavioral health.

The Vet Centers are uniquely positioned for the collaboration and development of alternative and supplemental approaches. We know that traditional mental health services are underutilized by veterans, but a 2014 University of Texas study found that, after just a one-week-long Outward Bound veterans wilderness expedition, those veterans who participated showed clinically significant improvements in mental health variables like sense of social connection and attitudes towards seeking psychological help. They also showed important decreases in depression and anxiety.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has already included the same language in their version of the MILCON-Veterans Administration Appropriations bill.

Mr. Chair, I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment. I am very grateful to the chairman of the subcommittee for including this in the en bloc amendments because it will enable Vet Centers to explore alternative avenues for engaging veterans in a supportive environment to help with both mental health and readjustment to civilian life.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS).

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. Wasserman Schultz) for yielding and the chair for including this amendment en bloc.

Mr. Chair, this amendment addresses the ongoing and, unfortunately, growing opioid epidemic in our communities. There are 60,000 overdose deaths each year.

I am vice chair of the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic. We are looking for ways to address this issue. It is a complex issue, and we want to take a variety of actions to help those suffering from the disease of addiction.

Veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, are at increased risk of abusing opioids according to the AMA, the American Medical Association. Many brave men and women who serve our country with whom we work face with whom we serve.

My amendment would set aside $5 million for the National Center for PTSD to study the connection between addiction and PTSD. Our veterans are suffering, and this investment will help them. Let’s get to the bottom of the connection between PTSD and opioid abuse. It is a simple but necessary way to address the epidemic.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. KIHUEN), who has been a passionate advocate to improve services to his rural communities.

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Chair, I thank the ranking member and the chairman for accepting my amendment.

Mr. Chair, veterans have made an incredible sacrifice for our country, and they deserve the highest quality treatment and care when they return to their civilian lives.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has the obligation to provide critical services to veterans and ensure that America’s veterans have access to high-quality and affordable healthcare in their communities.

Recently, the VA decided not to renew its contract with the Ely Community Clinic in my district, and it is forcing veterans in Ely and the surrounding communities to rely solely on the Choice Program to access care.

We owe it to our veterans not to use the Choice Program as a crutch, but to make the proper investment in the healthcare of our veterans and the healthcare that they deserve. Veterans
have already fought for their country. They shouldn't have to fight to keep their VA clinic in Ely.

The intention behind my amendment is to remind the VA that they have the responsibility to continue operating the healthcare clinic in Ely, Nevada, and to emphasize the importance of continuing to provide care in rural communities across the country.

The Choice Program was not intended for the VA to shrink its responsibility for certain veterans; instead, it was supposed to help veterans who have nowhere else to turn.

I was sent to Congress by the people of the Fourth Congressional District to fight for Nevada's veterans, and I will continue fighting to ensure that veterans in rural Nevada and communities across the country do not lose access to the VA and make sure that they receive the healthcare that they have earned and deserve.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, thank you for this opportunity to briefly explain Jackson Lee Amendment No. 22.

Before I begin, let me express my appreciation and thanks to my good friends, Chairman DENT and Ranking Member WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for their hard and constructive work in shepherding this important legislation to the floor.

Chairman DENT and I worked together constructively for many years on the Homeland Security Committee and he has always distinguished himself as one of the most bipartisan members of the committee.

And Ranking Member WASSERMAN SCHULTZ has for years been one of the ablest Members of this body; I thank them both for their commitment to the important work of ensuring that our veterans receive the care and support they have earned from a grateful nation.

Jackson Lee Amendment No. 22 makes a modest but important improvement to the bill by increasing the amount of funding for the "Supportive Services for Veterans' Families" account by $2 million, offset by a reduction of $2.5 million to the $4 billion allocated to the VA’s "Information Technology Systems" account.

Today, in our country, there are approximately 107,000 veterans (male and female) who are homeless on any given night.

And perhaps twice as many (200,000) experience homelessness at some point during the course of a year.

The VA’s "Supportive Services for Veterans’ Families" Program helps veterans; and their families, to may have fallen on hard times or hit a rough patch in life and need a little help from the country they selflessly risked their life to defend.

Homeless veterans or veterans facing homelessness who have minor age children are in their homes. The VA has in place programs that allow for housing that welcomes children.

Jackson Lee Amendment No. 22 will enable this vital program to serve more veterans’ families in need of help by providing a bit more funding for grants to private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives that provide supportive services to very low-income veteran families living in or transitioning to permanent housing.

The SSVF Program ensures that eligible veteran families receive the outreach, case management, and assistance in obtaining VA and other benefits.

These services may include health care, daily living, legal services, fiduciary and payee services, permanent financial planning, child care, transportation, housing counseling.

The SSVF Program enables VA staff and local homeless service providers to work together to effectively address the unique challenges that make it difficult for some veterans and their families to remain stably housed.

Many homeless veterans are facing challenges that make it difficult for some veterans and their families to remain stably housed.

Veterans like the one in Texas who because they lost their job at a manufacturing plant and was unable to pay the bills, was forced to seek shelter for himself and his family at a homeless shelter.

Fortunately, the homeless shelter was a SSVF grantee and was able to assist the veteran obtain employment and his family in securing affordable low-cost housing.

There are thousands of similar success stories made possible by the SSVF Program that I could share but all of them share a common theme: they involve veterans who served their country proudly, fell down on their luck, picked themselves back up, and found affordable and sustainable housing for their families because of the assistance and support made possible by the SSVF program.

Ensuring that veterans have a place of their own to call home is the very least we can do.

I urge my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee Amendment and commit ourselves to the hard but necessary work of ending veteran homelessness in America.

I urge my colleagues to support Jackson Lee Amendment No. 22.

"HERODS KNOWS NO GENDER"

Liz (Names and some identifying information have been changed to protect confiden-
tiality) is a single mom. After losing her job, she struggled to pay the rent and provide for her daughter. Liz’s landlord said she had always been an excellent tenant but this time was wearing thin as her rent arrears continued to increase. Disheartened with a fruitless job search and unsure of where else to turn, Liz came to the Veterans Outreach Center (VOC). She was immediately connected with a Case Manager, an Employment Specialist, an Accredited State Veterans Benefits Counselor, and the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor.

In order to avoid the immediate crisis of homelessness, the Services To Enable Positive Solutions (S.T.E.P.S) program at the VOC provided Liz with a modest but important improvement to the bill that resulted in full-time, meaningful employment. In less than a week, she had a benefits review with an on-site counselor at the New York VA to help Lindsey Affairs during which she applied for an increase in disability compensation. The payment of Liz’s back rent allowed her and her daughter to keep their heads above water.

With a roof over their heads and their living situation stabilized, Liz was able to focus on her employment and securing her benefits, which are both components of an Individual Development Plan (IDP) that will help Liz sustain permanent housing in the future.

Veterans like the Air Force veteran who because they had nowhere else to turn.

I offer Jackson Lee Amendment No. 25 because I believe reducing and eliminating the rate of homelessness among veterans in the United States does not increase.

I thank Subcommittee Chairman DENT and Ranking Member WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for their hard work in shepherding this important legislation to the floor.

I offer Jackson Lee Amendment No. 25 because I believe reducing and eliminating...
I urge my colleagues to support Jackson Lee Amendment No. 25 and commit ourselves to the hard but necessary work of ending veteran homelessness in America.

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

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. AL GREEN OF TEXAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 13 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 220, line 22, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(increased by $70,000,000)".

Page 225, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(reduced by $70,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN). Mr. Chair, I will be withdrawing my amendment, but I do desire to make some points.

I am grateful to the chairperson of the committee and the ranking member as well, I know them to be admirable persons who desire to do the very best for our veterans.

I would like to state, Mr. Chairman, that we have many people who are on the front line of democracy. These are the people who were too young to go to distant places, and a good many of them don’t always return the same way they left, and, Mr. Chairman, as a result of this, they need special attention. They need medical attention.

We have a circumstance in our country that breaks the hearts of a good many Americans each and every day when they see persons standing on the streets with signs indicating that they are veterans that they need help. Mr. Chairman, what we propose to do with this amendment is to provide that additional help that they need.

This amendment would accord an additional $70 million to medical services for homeless veterans, the veterans that we see living in the streets of life, the veterans who are appealing to us for help. A good many of them need help that goes beyond something that is physically wrong with them. A good many of them may need some help because of some mental illness that they may have.

Mr. Chairman, in Texas, we have, on any given night, about 1,768 veterans who are living on the streets. According to the VA, about 40,000 veterans were homeless on a single night in January of 2016. This is a decrease from where we have been.

The decline is admirable and we ought not overlook the decline, but my belief is we can still do better and we can still help those who are in need of some services. So this amendment would accord the $70 million and bring us back to our 2017 levels.

Mr. Chair, I would ask that the chairperson and the ranking member please understand that my desire is to be of service to our veterans.

Mr. Chairman, if I may engage in a colloquy at this time. You have heard my appeal. My hope is that Congressman DENT and I might be able to work together to do what we can to enhance the services that are needed to provide medical attention for homeless veterans. I am sure that Congressman DENT has seen the evidence of it, and they, too, are ready and willing for us to review if we would like to, but I would like as much assistance as we can get.

Mr. DENT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for his genuine concern and thoughtfulness with respect to veterans’ homelessness. It is indeed a very serious problem. I do look forward to working with him on this issue, but I also want to mention that our bill does respond quite admirably in many ways to the homelessness challenge.

We support more than $7.3 billion in medical care, housing, social service, and job training assistance for homeless veterans, and that is about $197 million more this year than in fiscal year 2017 and almost $450 million more than 2 years ago. But Congressman GREEN is correct that we can always do more and that this challenge continues to plague us. We have made great progress in this country, but I pledge to work with Mr. GREEN on this issue.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman DENT.

And if I may just say to the ranking member on our side, I greatly appreciate Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ having helped us to bring this to the floor to this extent, and I look forward to working with her as well.

Mr. Chair, the need to help people who are willing to give it all for us is something that we can never overlook, and I am grateful.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time, and I withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, as the designee of Ranking Member LOWEY, I move to strike the last word.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, President Trump, the "Commander in Tweet," tweeted this morning announcing a ban on transgender military service, which was a completely baseless and hateful assault on transgender Americans. Make no mistake: this was not just a midnight tweet. This was a statement of this administration’s discriminatory policies and a step backwards for our Nation.
While the President tweeted that his decision came after consulting, supposedly, with our Nation’s top generals, that was apparently news to them, as it was met with utter surprise and silence from Pentagon leaders.

\[1845\]

Additionally, the President may want to speak to his VA Secretary, as the VA has unequivocally stated VA’s policy has not changed. The VA provides care, benefits, and other VA services to all veterans, including transgender veterans.

The President’s policy reversal comes after our military has undertaken a measured and thoughtful process to make our military open to LGBT Americans to serve their Nation with pride and patriotism. This thoughtful process included the successful repeal of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, which had the support of civilian and military defense leaders and an overwhelming number of Americans.

Unlike the President’s tweets, the decision to make our military more open was not made rashly or with the intention to discriminate.

With over 6,000 transgender Americans serving on Active Duty, in the National Guard, and in our Reserve forces, it would be reckless, dangerous, and cruel to remove brave servicemembers from their critical roles protecting the American people. It is reckless and dangerous to immediately leave vacant positions that are so vital to our national security.

It would be cruel to perniciously discharge these servicemembers less than honorably, an act that could gravely impact whether they are eligible for VA benefits.

Time and again, we see the dramatic and unintended consequences of this President’s thoughtless actions.

As we fight for an open military, we will continue to provide the proper care and resources to the over 130,000 transgender veterans that fought to defend our Nation.

Additionally, whatever my colleagues on the other side of the aisle may say, this decision was not based on a financial cost-benefit analysis.

Allowing transgender people to serve in the military would raise defense health spending by less than 0.1 percent annually, including funds for gender reassignment surgeries. That is just $2.4 million to $4.4 million.

In comparison, just so we are illustrative, the Pentagon spends $94.21 million annually on erectile dysfunction prescriptions. Of that, $41.6 million was specifically spent on Viagra.

Moreover, research has shown that greater inclusion has little or no impact on unit cohesion, operational effectiveness, or readiness. In fact, commanders have noted that these policies benefited all servicemembers by creating a more inclusive and diverse force.

Mr. Chairman, several things are clear:

This was not a decision based on fiscal responsibility.

This was not a decision based on military readiness.

This decision was apparently made to save the President’s immoral, irresponsible border wall bill, because some Republican Members threatened to bring down the entire minibus appropriations bill that we are debating here today over transgender medical treatment in the military.

This decision, at the end of the day, was based purely on bigotry and hate, and it is one that we will vehemently oppose.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MR. RATCLIFFE

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. LaHOOD). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 20 printed in House Report 115-259.

Mr. RATCLIFFE. 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 division C before the short title insert the following:

"SEC. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to propose, plan for, or execute a new or additional Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RATCLIFFE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman DENT and the ranking member for their hard work on behalf of the 63,000 veterans in my district, as well as servicemembers and veterans from all across the country.

I am also grateful for the support of Congressman SHUSTER in offering this amendment, an amendment which would simply prohibit any funds made available in this division from being used to propose, plan for, or execute a new or additional round of base realignment and closure, or BRAC.

Mr. Chairman, I am honored to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Texas, which is home to the Red River Army Depot. The Depot has supported the warfighter since 1941. Although the Depot community has weathered a lot of changes over the years, their commitment to mission has always remained the same. On the placards inside each vehicle there are the words: "We build it as if our lives depend on it. Thelma do."

The Red River Army Depot is a vital job creator for northeast Texas and my district, and an integral component to our national defense. And as we continue our constitutional obligation to appropriate money, we have to be careful stewards of taxpayer dollars, and focus our limited resources on addressing the critical national security objectives and military readiness.

Having another round of BRAC, Mr. Chairman, won’t help us achieve this goal. According to the Government Accountability Office, the last round of BRAC in 2005 actually cost the American taxpayers $35.1 billion, which is 67 percent more than the original cost estimate. At the same time, the expected savings from the last round of BRAC have been reduced by 73 percent.

Starting another BRAC would weaken our capabilities, and it would increase our vulnerability in the face of critical threats that face this Nation right now.

I thank my colleagues who have supported this important amendment for the past 2 years, and I look forward to having this amendment included in this year’s Military Construction and VA Appropriations bill.

Mr. DENT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RATCLIFFE. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DENT. I just want to say for the RECORD that I appreciate the gentleman’s concern for his district. I am not going to oppose this amendment. But I did want to say that, at some point, there will need to be a BRAC. There is a lot of excess capacity in the Army and the Air Force. But for fiscal year ’18, I can accept this amendment, but down the road I see a BRAC.

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for accepting the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, like many Members, have concerns regarding another round of BRAC. I realize that this is a complicated issue for all Members of Congress, especially those with military facilities in their congressional districts.

I have had this conversation with my chairman, Mr. DENT, several times. And while we both share the concerns of those Members with military bases in their district and other military facilities, the gentleman is right. We are going to need to address that we have facilities all across the country that really need to be evaluated because they are, essentially, maintaining infrastructure that is no longer needed.

For example, the Air Force’s estimate of excess capacity for the Army is 22 percent. The Air Force’s estimate of excess capacity is roughly 30 percent. Both the Army and the Air Force are strong supporters of another BRAC round.

While this amendment recently has no effect because we don’t actually have any funding in this bill for another BRAC round, it does send the message that Congress is unwilling to tackle what is arguably a tough issue.

This amendment would be, essentially, an abdication of our duties as Members of this House to ensure that taxpayer resources are being used in a wise and fiscally responsible way, and
that is something that we hear from our friends on the other side of the aisle regularly.

And given that we have a very significant increase in the defense appropriations bill, when we have resources that we are expending on them partially, wastefully, having a BRAC round, then we are, essentially, leaving that money on the table when we could provide it for our national defense.

So I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment. And I recognize that the chairman is willing to accept it, but we should underscore that there are no funds in this bill for a round of BRAC, so, essentially, the acceptance of this amendment adopts the same posture that this bill already holds.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RATCLIFFE).

The amendment was agreed to by voice vote. 217-197, Roll Call 690.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn. The amendment is offered by Mr. BRAT.

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 21 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. BRAT. 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 division C (before the short title) insert the following:

Sec. 21. Of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to purchase, breed, transport, house, feed, maintain, dispose of, or experiment on dogs as part of the conduct of any study assigned to pain category D or E, as defined by the Department of Agriculture.

(b) This section shall not apply to training programs or studies of service dogs described in section 1714 of title 38 United States Code or section 17.14 of title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BRAT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of this bipartisan amendment. I have had three Dalmatians over the years, and I know there are a lot of other people who have dogs. They have service dogs that are used by our vets and our agencies. And the thought that our Veterans Administration would go ahead and torture dogs in the name of science and experiments is not acceptable; it is just not.

If citizens committed these acts that the VA is committing on dogs, under most laws, that would be animal cruelty. They could be prosecuted and go to jail. But because it is the VA, because it is a government agency, that doesn’t apply.

But we do want the agency to stop torturing dogs in the name of science. There are better ways that they can spend the money, better ways they can figure out how to help our veterans besides taking careless actions against, as my friend from Virginia said, man’s best friend. And if it’s going to be man’s best friend, it shouldn’t be, or we should not be torturing those dogs for any reason. So I support the amendment.

Ms. TITUS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BRAT. I yield to the gentleman from Nevada.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chairman, I, too, rise in support of this bipartisan amendment. I thank my colleagues, Mr. BRAT, Mr. POE, and Mr. KHANNA, for introducing it.

We want to prohibit funds from being used by the Department of the VA on studies that cause significant pain and distress to dogs.

As a former member of the House Veterans Affairs’ Committee and a longtime advocate of animal protection, I firmly believe we should not be using taxpayer dollars to fund painful and unnecessary experimental procedures when we have technological advances that can move us toward alternative methods.

We have seen the NIH in their chimpanzee research, and they said that available technologies are more accurate, faster, and less expensive than animal testing.

The U.S. military is moving away from using live animals in trauma medical testing. We have seen that the Coast Guard has stopped using their live tissue training program.

The Los Angeles VA just recently announced it is suspending controversial and gruesome experiments on a colony of narcoleptic Dobermans. It is now time for the rest of the VA to do the same thing.

This amendment is supported by the Humane Society, the Animal Welfare Institute, and the White Coat Waste Project.

It is estimated that 44 percent of all households—and you heard my colleagues mention this—in the United States have a dog. In our culture, they are considered cherished pets, and they are members of the family. They are not to be used for experiments. Even veterinarians themselves depend on dogs on the battlefield and at home for therapy.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment, and that is just the way it is.

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

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment, but I do not plan to oppose it.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. GALLAGHER). Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the ranking member.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Chairman, the VA conducts animal research at 74 of its facilities, and one of those facilities is the Richmond VA Medical Center, where I work. When my wife Laura and I read the news report about the VA’s dog testing program at the Richmond VA Medical Center, we were disturbed by the descriptions of the types of experiments conducted on these puppies. From what I read, the type of work they were doing was on the level of torture. In Richmond, this included inducing heart attacks. At other labs, the VA was giving methamphetamine to narcoleptic Dobermans.

My family had a Doberman, and he was part of our family years back. I can’t imagine conducting these tests on man’s best friend. And if it’s going to be man’s best friend, it shouldn’t be, or we should not be torturing those dogs for any reason. So I support the amendment.
yesterday, another whistleblower went public with graphic photos of mutilated dogs and other troubling information about dog testing at that facility.

In addition, a recent VA Office of Research Oversight investigation found that the VA failed to keep adequate records about work and conditions for dogs and has consistently underreported the number of dogs used in experiments to Federal authorities.

I want to be clear that this amendment, unfortunately, does not stop all animal research at the VA, and it doesn’t even stop all dog research at the VA—again, unfortunately. Far from it, in fact. This amendment right-ly and simply prohibits taxpayers’ dollars from being spent on research that causes dogs significant pain and distress.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment on behalf of Bailey, Demmy, Coqui, Minnie, and Maddie Schultz.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentle- man from Virginia (Mr. BRAT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MR. KING OF IOWA

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is in order to consider amendment No. 23 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk in order to the effect that—

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of division C (before the short title), insert the following SPC. . . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the prevailing wage requirements in subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Davis-Bacon Act).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. King) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, this is a Davis-Bacon amendment that addresses the MILCON component of the legislation that is before us.

This Congress has had this debate a number of times over the past years. The history of the Davis-Bacon Act goes back to, I will say, a couple of Republi-cans that got together and de-cided they didn’t want the construc-tion market to have to face the com-petition of African Americans coming out of Alabama to build a Federal building in New York City. They took such great offense to that that they wrote legislation that is known as the Davis-Bacon Act, and the language says today, and we have dealt with that, I would say, nearly every year, if not every year, throughout all that time.

What we have is the Federal Gover-nment interfering in the relationship be-tween the employer and the employee and setting a wage scale that is called a prevailing wage. But then it is set by folks sitting inside a room with a closed door, and they come out of there with the equivalent of a union wage mandated by the Federal Government.

That is the net effect.

As we’ve tracked across the years, the increase in the cost of the projects for us has been between 8 and 35 percent, depending on how much is labor, how much is materials, and the nature of the job.

The Heritage Foundation has done a study or two. They come with a number kind of in that area. So I just boil it down to 20 percent. It is a 20 percent increase over the otherwise cost of a project, and that means this: without the Davis-Bacon wage scale imposed un upon it by the Federal Government, the merit shop employees who meet plans and specs and do high-quality work—and there is nothing in our 42 years of history that would indicate otherwise—that we can build 5 miles of road instead of 4, we can build five bar-racks instead of four, we can build five bridges instead of four.

This is an unnecessary cost to the taxpayer. It brings efficiency to the expend-itures to be in the open and the best, and it does a lot better job of taking care of our military.

Mr. Chairman, I urge the adoption of my amendment, which simply does this: it says that none of the funds may be used to implement, administer, or enforce prevailing wage requirements that is referenced as Davis-Bacon.

Mr. Chairman, I urge its adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I am opposed to the amend ment.

Mr. Chairman, Davis-Bacon is a pret-ty simple concept, and a fair one at that. What the Davis-Bacon Act does is to protect the government as well as the workers in carrying out the policy that is very simple and very straight-forward: paying decent wages on govern ment contracts.

The Davis-Bacon Act requires that workers on federally funded construc-tion projects be paid no less than the wages paid in the community for simi lar work. It requires that every con-tract for construction of which the Federal Government is a party in ex cess of $2,000 contain a provision defin-ing the minimum wages paid to various classes of laborers and mechanics. And I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, as I listen to that rebuttal, I would like to bring back a little more of the history of this, and it is this: that Davis-Bacon, and I have been looking at this a long time, as far as I know, and I be lieve it is true, is the last remaining Jim Crow law that exists in Federal statute today.

We should take care to pull it out of the Federal code. Its legacy is badly tainted. It was built as a racist law, and that needs to be eliminated, and we need to have a merit shop society where people can compete rather than the Federal Government deciding with a board or a commission behind closed doors.

Let’s build more roads, more bridges, more barracks, more airstrips. Let’s put our money to the best use we can. That is in keeping with Donald Trump’s philosophy: get more for less.

That is what you get with the King amendment, more for less, and we get to eliminate at least the effectiveness of this Jim Crow law on our MILCON as a starter.

If we do this here, we have got an opportunity, then, to go forward with a law that finally one day completely repeals Davis-Bacon.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS), who has been a passionate advocate and fighter for working men and women of this country.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chairman, I thank the Congresswoman for yielding me time.

If we do this here, we have got an opportunity, then, to go forward with a law that finally one day completely repeals Davis-Bacon.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS), who has been a passionate advocate and fighter for working men and women of this country.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chairman, I thank the Congresswoman for yielding me time.

I rise in strong opposition to this misguided Davis-Bacon amendment.

Why would anybody come to this floor and say we want to lower the wages for the people I represent? Why would anybody want to do that? We are here to help people raise their local standards of living.

That is what this amendment would do. It would lower the wages for the working conditions of those very men and women that we were elected to serve. It would hurt the local economy, defvalue the workers’ pay.

Almost 100 years ago, two Repub-licans, Congressman James Davis and Robert Bacon, realized there was a problem with the Federal Government and contracts. The contracts were unfair to those local economies. In 1931, voted to maintain Davis-Bacon require-ments. In fact, most recently, during consideration of the fiscal year 2018 Na-tional Defense Authorization Act, in a bipartisan fashion, the House firmly rejected a similar amendment 242–183.

That is what this amendment would do. It would lower the wages for the working conditions of those very men and women that we were elected to serve. It would hurt the local economy, defvalue the workers’ pay.
unanimously approved, Davis-Bacon prevailing wage, it ensured construction workers coming in are paid the same as local labor—as local labor. It levels the playing field, ensures workers get paid a fair day's pay for a hard day's work—easy answers, very easy answers.

For my colleagues supporting this amendment, I have a few questions of you.

Do you want the Federal Government to make bad investments? Would you want the Federal Government to engage in revisionist history when it comes to walking the Chamber through the history of why we have Davis-Bacon.

It was actually in 1927 that a contractor who was employing African-American workers was building a Veterans Bureau hospital—fitting that we are debating this on this bill in the district of Congressman Bacon. What Congressman Bacon found was that there were very serious issues related to low wages being paid, competitive pressure towards those lower wages, discrimination against the wages of migrant workers, and so he introduced Davis-Bacon initially to be able to make sure that workers on construction projects would be able to be paid the prevailing wages in the community.

These workers happened to be African-American, but the only thing that is at all related to the so-called Jim Crow reference that the gentleman from Iowa made.

We need to make sure that, no matter where you work on a Federal Government project, construction workers, working people who are trying to make sure that they produce quality work, are able to produce that quality work by being paid the prevailing wage in a community based on those standards.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, it is unfortunate that the gentleman from Iowa repeatedly engages in revisionist history when it comes to walking the Chamber through the history of why we have Davis-Bacon.

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 24 printed in House Report 115–259.

AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MR. BERGMAN TO THE AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KING

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 27 printed in House Report 115–259.

MR. BERGMAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 267, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by $1,000,000)".

Page 273, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(decreased by $1,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes for the purpose of debate.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my amendment to the Make America Secure Appropriations Act bill. My amendment simply adds $1 million to the S. Corps of Engineers' investigations account to assist with projects across the country that the Army Corps is in charge of overseeing.

Projects like modernizing the Soo Locks, the lock system located in my district in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan which connects Lake Superior to the lower part of the Great Lakes through the St. Marys River.

This is a project that has been around for a long time on the books. Projects like this that have more than 4,500 vessels and 80 million tons of cargo moving through the Soo Locks each year, this lock system plays a critical role in the transport of raw materials and other goods through the Great Lakes region to ports around the entire country.

And currently, the construction of a new lock, which is integral not only to my district, but the entire United States, is caught in a mire of uncertainty, and it all comes down to one thing: funding.

I think it is appropriate that we are considering this amendment in the context of making America secure because it might be a surprise to some to learn that modernizing the Soo Locks is a matter of national security.

A recent Department of Homeland Security report has made clear that an unexpected interruption to the Poe—the largest lock in the system—would have disastrous economic impacts across the Nation, to include a $1.1 trillion fall in national gross domestic product and a spike in national unemployment to a rate of 11.3 percent.

Again, this is the Department of Homeland Security saying this. And while Congress has authorized the construction of a new lock twice now over several years, the Soo has been tied up...
Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 473, as the designee of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), I offer amendments en bloc.

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

Amendments en bloc No. 2 consisting of amendment Nos. 29, 30, 33, 34, 45, 47, 48, 66, 67, 68, and 69 printed in House Report 115–259, offered by Mr. SIMPSON of Idaho:

AMENDMENT NO. 29 OFFERED BY MR. BEN RAY LULIAN OF NEW MEXICO

Page 268, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert ``(reduced by $10,000,000) (increased by $10,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 30 OFFERED BY MR. WELCH OF VERMONT

Page 268, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert ``(reduced by $10,000,000) (increased by $10,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 33 OFFERED BY MR. CURBELO OF FLORIDA

Page 268, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert ``(reduced by $45,000,000) (increased by $45,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 34 OFFERED BY MR. NOLAN OF MINNESOTA

Page 270, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert ``(increased by $235,000)''.

Page 273, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert ``(reduced by $235,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 45 OFFERED BY MR. LARSON OF CONNECTICUT

Page 286, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ``(reduced by $1,000,000,000) (increased by $1,000,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 46 OFFERED BY MR. TAKANO OF CALIFORNIA

Page 286, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ``(reduced by $1,000,000,000) (increased by $1,000,000,000)''.

Page 296, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert ``(reduced by $1,000,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 47 OFFERED BY MR. STIVERS OF OHIO

At the end of division D (before the short title), insert the following:

Sec. 3. None of the funds made available by this division may be used for the Cape Wind Energy Project on the Outer Continental Shelf off Massachusetts, Nantucket Sound.

AMENDMENT NO. 47 OFFERED BY MR. GALLAGHER OF WISCONSIN

At the end of division D (before the short title), insert the following:

Sec. 4. For “Department of Energy—Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability” for energy storage systems demonstrations as authorized by section 614 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17231), there is hereby appropriated, and the amount otherwise provided by this Act for “Department of Energy—Departmental Administration” is hereby reduced by $10,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 68 OFFERED BY MS. BROWNLEY OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of division D, before the short title, insert the following:

Sec. 5. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 2102 of the Water Resources Reform

AMENDMENT NO. 33 OFFERED BY MR. RODNEY DAVIS OF ILLINOIS

At the end of division D, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. ... None of the funds made available under title I of division D of this Act may be used to conduct a new comprehensive re-evaluation of any project authorized under title VIII of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473 the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. KAPTUR) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that the en bloc amendments have been agreed to by both sides, and I would urge my Members to support the en bloc amendments.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the en bloc amendment.

Mr. Chair, I yield ½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my amendment which ensures that the Department of Energy continues to fund Energy Innovation Hubs in the Offices of Science, Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy, and Nuclear Energy.

The current report language accompanying H.R. 3266, which is the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill, directs the DOE not to fund these centers.

By passing this amendment, we will clearly express Congress’ intent to continue funding these innovation hubs and request that the final report language be edited to reflect our intent.

These existing innovation hubs conduct critical research across energy fields including nuclear, solar, advanced storage, and energy supply chains. These hubs are modeled off of the iconic Bell Laboratories, but private industry no longer sustains this type of research due to increasing pressures to make short-term profits.

That is why it is essential that the government conduct this research.

Mr. Chairman, I encourage my colleagues to support the en bloc and amend the final report language so that these vital innovation hubs continue to receive funding.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, as the designee of Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Chairman, I yield.

The Acting CHAIR. The committee’s continued support for the Rahway River flood control project in the district I serve. This project is essential to the safety and security of Montclair and all of northern New Jersey. These communities have worked extensively with the district office of the Army Corps, which, together with their colleagues at Corps headquarters in Washington, prepared a Tentatively Selected Plan. We are waiting for Corps headquarters to schedule an agency milestone meeting to finalize the details and begin the process of compiling a chief’s report.

Is the committee’s intent in providing funding that the Corps should complete the Rahway River feasibility study?

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his question.

Yes. It has been the committee’s intent that funds provided to date were to be used to complete the feasibility study and issue a chief’s report. There is additional funding provided in this bill that could be allocated to the Rahway River study, if necessary.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Chairman, I would further ask your assistance to ensure that the extensive work, expertise, and planning at the district level and the extensive community involvement is also followed by the Army Corps headquarters.

There is great concern in the communities I serve that Army Corps headquarters might shelve this project despite its continued authorization—as recently as the 2016 WRDA bill—and the ongoing funding from your subcommittee.

This would represent the worst kind of disconnect between the needs of communities in need and the bureaucracy of Washington. Doing nothing, wasting taxpayers’ time and money, and allowing hazards to endure are not an acceptable outcome.

I would respectfully ask the full committee chairman and subcommittee chairman to assist in convening a meeting with the affected Members of Congress and the Corps to ensure we continue to move forward with this chosen alternative, and proceed with the project now.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

We would be pleased to work with the gentleman from New Jersey on such a meeting and to ensure a successful conclusion to the feasibility study.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that Amendment No. 31 will not be offered.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, as the designee of Ranking Member Lowey, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I want to express my appreciation to Congressman MIKE SIMPSON and all the members of our subcommittee on both sides of the aisle for completing our work on time and for reaching agreement on many amendments that will save the Members angst tonight, and, hopefully, we won’t have to work beyond midnight.

I want to say, with the mark that we have received, we continue to move America forward on energy independence. We know that by 8 or 9 years it is projected that America will finally be exporting more energy than we are importing, and we will be 100 percent energy-efficient and energy-independent here at home.

That is quite an accomplishment thinking back to the period of time in our Nation’s history in the last century when we, as a nation, were subjected to rising oil prices because of embargoes, particularly in the world and we fell into deep recession here in our country back in the 1970s; and subsequent to that, every time gasoline went over $4 a gallon.

So when we consider the Energy and Water bill, I think we all have to put America on the back for having had consistent enlightened leaders on both sides of the aisle who understood what was important in the Nation’s best interests.

So as we consider this bill today—there were particular amendments on subjects that range as far afield as the Soo Locks and the Energy Information Administration, which we will get into in a moment, water projects that are some of the biggest job creators across this country—let’s not lose sight of the big frame.

The big frame really is that this is a bill that makes America more secure and that allows us to make progress here at home from coast to coast. All of our ports and all of our water infrastructure that is so vital not just west of the Mississippi, but the Great Lakes region and our coasts, some of the challenges we face in the Everglades, these are issues that all of America cares about, particularly when it is in your own backyard.

This is a really important bill for the country. It is not the largest bill that is considered as part of the appropriations process, but it is one that is extraordinarily important. And, of course, over half of our budget deals with the nuclear weapons component and making sure that that great asset that we have is maintained, is the finest in the world, and is the best managed. So this subcommittee has quite a jurisdiction from coast to coast.

I know that the efforts in this bill to fund the future and new energy sources that are coming forward are in America’s national interests.
We look at the field of solar, for example. We have over 300,000 people working in the solar energy field, actually more than work in the coal fields now. Some of those solar companies are in districts that I represent. This is a new industry. Renewables can provide us with 16 percent of all the energy that the country produces, and this has been a major accomplishment in just the last few decades.

A lot of photovoltaic research goes back to the 1980s. We are now looking at what energy, the fastest growing job sector in America. It is really for wind technicians.

I thank the members of our committee on both sides of the aisle for appreciating the opportunity to grow this massive industry, including with investments such as LEEDCo in the State of Ohio; capturing the Saudi Arabia of wind, which is Lake Erie's complement.

As we feel a sense of accomplishment tonight as we bring this bill to the floor and we look at the horizons ahead. We know that we have to deal with the other body, we have to compromise out any of our differences, but I have a hunch that we are going to be able to do that very well.

I thank all those who may be listening this evening, particularly those who are working in our National Labs, the finest labs in the world that are inventing the future from coast to coast. Over a dozen and a half of those labs have America's best scientists working on not just energy research, but derivative spinoffs in the commercial sector that eventually benefit the entire country.

As I mentioned, the natural gas discovery that has really been responsible for leading us toward energy independence was made possible by the fracking technology developed over many years at the U.S. Department of Energy. So as you look at gas prices going down at the pump and you look at the competition in the energy industry, we have a lot of people, many unsung heroes across our country in these labs who work tirelessly on behalf of the American people. Some are retired and some are still in place, but we owe them a deep debt of gratitude for serving the American people so nobly.

We are going to have several other amendments that come before us tonight.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman if he wishes to make a statement.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman. It is wonderful to have someone who can talk with some intelligence about what we are doing here, and keep the attention of the body as we are waiting for Members to come to the floor.

Ms. KAPUR. I think it is fair to say, Mr. Chairman, that you now have a fine point on the bill alone that people were anticipating their amendments would come up later in the evening. But, as usual, this is not just an energy efficient committee, but a very efficient committee.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise. The motion is agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose and the Speaker Pro Tempore (Mr. MITCHELL) having assumed the chair, Mr. GALLAGHER, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

PERMISSION TO CONSIDER AMENDMENT NO. 32 AND AMENDMENT NO. 35 PRINTED IN HOUSE REPORT 115-259 OUT OF SEQUENCE

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during further consideration of H.R. 3219, pursuant to House Resolution 473, amendment No. 32 and amendment No. 35, printed in House Report 115-259, may be offered out of sequence.

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

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 473 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. 3219.

Will the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER) kindly resume the chair?

Page 296, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $18,100,000)''.

Page 296, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $5,900,000)''.

Page 296, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $28,169,300)''.

Page 296, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $52,645,700)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my fiscally responsible amendment that is one step in securing America's future.

My amendment is a simple 10 percent cut to administrative expenses of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, Department of the Interior, and Department of Energy. These savings would be used to reduce the deficit.

Our national debt stands at $20 trillion, and growing. Our unfunded liabilities add another $100 trillion to $200 trillion to the Federal debt, and that is only guess. Our fiscal year was over $500 billion. That is not sustainable. It jeopardizes our future and must be taken seriously. Paying lip service to the problem will not solve it. Talk is cheap. We must now be responsible, because it is too late.

I come from the world of private business and know the importance of having our fiscal house in order. I also know that being fiscally responsible starts with small steps, which, when added together, make a big impact.

Early in my career, I worked at Chrysler at the time when Lee Iacocca was CEO and went through the first loan guarantee. His famous fiscal savvy and focus helped save Chrysler, which was destined for bankruptcy. If not for Iacocca taking strong but necessary measures, a great Michigan company would have been lost.

Lee Iacocca understood that fiscal responsibility starts on a small scale. He once said if he had a manager who couldn't cut administrative costs by 10 percent, he needed a new manager.

Mr. Chair, that is what I propose today, a 10 percent cut to administrative costs of government agencies, which is a small cut, when combined with others like it, could yield back results and big savings for taxpayers. Moreover, these cuts would restrain an overactive government bureaucracy.

The Republican-led Congress has worked hard to undo years of copious overregulation, but another solution is to have fewer regulators and fewer bureaucrats passing on regulations that make it hard for businesses to survive and taxpayers to live their lives. Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to choose fiscal responsibility, choose a secure American future, make a modest cut in the administrative costs of
Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chair, I certainly did not intend the adverse impacts that are outlined by the chairman or the ranking member, nor do I believe they will arise.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I also rise in opposition to this amendment.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chair, I certainly did not intend the adverse impacts that are outlined by the chairman or the ranking member, nor do I believe they will arise.

My experience in years of management of the Great Lakes region, too, and we need him as a strong voice for our Great Lakes, but I do think that cuts to these particular accounts really are counterproductive, for the following reasons.

First of all, the most important step any country can take to deal with the deficit is to grow the economy. This particular budget, this particular set of accounts, particularly the Army Corps of Engineers, has the type of construction and building accounts that produce income. They produce income for people who do the work, but they also improve our ports.

If you look all around Michigan, if you look at the Soo Locks, if you look at the assets just in our region of the country, the progress that a region can make, because it improves its ports and attendant roads and rails and so forth, creates opportunity for companies to locate.

We just had a phenomenal announcement in the city of Toledo this week by the Cleveland-Cliffs company. We have been working for 30 years to improve the port to connect rail and to have fast, north to south highway improvements. By golly, it worked with a $700 million investment by the private sector. It was just so exciting to bring ore from Michigan and Minnesota into the lower lakes. It was really quite incredible.

So these dollars yield results. They don't happen in one year. They take a while to happen, but they happen.

I also oppose the gentleman's amendment because there are 52 billion of backlog of work at the Army Corps of Engineers alone. I don't know if you saw the stories about the Department of the Interior. People are lined up to get into the national parks through those turnstiles, trying to get into our national forests.

We need to improve those parks. We need to make sure that we are doing things like dealing with the Forest Service so that the underbrush is cut out and that our forests aren't burning up all over the place.

We have such a maintenance backlog across this Nation, and with budgets of this size, we don't want to be in a position where we under account for the funds that are being spent.

So to reduce funding for critical oversight in the administrative departments of these very large agencies, I think is not wise. In fact, it is penny-wise and pound-foolish in the end.

Mr. Chair, for all of those reasons—our labs, our security of taxpayer funds, and for the sake of the future—I oppose the gentleman's amendment and urge my colleagues to join me.

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chair, I certainly did not intend the adverse impacts that are outlined by the chairman or the ranking member, nor do I believe they will arise.

My experience in years of management of the Great Lakes region, too, and we need him as a strong voice for our Great Lakes, but I do think that cuts to these particular accounts really are counterproductive, for the following reasons.

First of all, the most important step any country can take to deal with the deficit is to grow the economy. This particular budget, this particular set of accounts, particularly the Army Corps of Engineers, has the type of construction and building accounts that produce income. They produce income for people who do the work, but they also improve our ports.
The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I understand what the gentleman’s concern is. I have to tell you, it is a concern not only in Florida, but all over the country. It is a concern in Ohio. It is actually a concern in Idaho. You wouldn’t think about that, but they are having some problems in Idaho with algal blooms, also. So it is something that we need to get our attention to and see if we can’t make progress on this really vexing issue.

I would just like to clarify that the amendment does not direct funds to any particular activities so that doesn’t necessarily mean that this will get done, but I understand what the gentleman is trying to do.

For that reason, and because it doesn’t upset the balance of the bill, I will not oppose the amendment, but I want to work with him, as well as, I am sure, the ranking member, because this is an issue we have got to address across the country. I appreciate him bringing this matter and this issue to our attention so that we can talk about it.

Ms. KAPTUR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to add a bit to that.

I thank Congressman Mast very much for offering this amendment. I do think we need to work with the Corps. Obviously, this is a growing problem.

We have heard from Florida colleagues. We have heard from colleagues in Nevada, throughout the Great Lakes region.

These algal blooms are truly frightening. In the Midwest, in the Great Lakes region, a major water system was shut down for 3 days in the city of Toledo, denying water to over half a million people for 3 days. It is quite frightening.

At the moment, there is no—and I say this for the Corps’ benefit, because it would require cooperation with other agencies—ecosystem satellite mapping or drone technology currently that is able to photo large regions and home in on where the nutrients are that are causing the problem.

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As I have gotten into this more deeply, we need high science, whether it is high-frequency infrared or whatever we use. We do not have the ability to bring in the target the toxic portion of those algal blooms.

So a lot of work is needed, and I really appreciate the gentleman rising tonight. I know you have gotten the Corps’ attention as you have gotten our attention, and we will work with the chairman to see if we can’t make progress on this really vexing issue.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentlewoman’s comments, and we not only need to work with the Corps, but we also need to work with the EPA in trying to address this issue because it is a lot broader than most people think.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Mast).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. HECK (TEN MINUTES READ BY OBJECTOR). Pursuant to the order of the House of today, it is now in order to consider amendment No. 35 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. HECK. 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:

Page 270, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by $300,000)”.

Page 273, line 1, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by 500,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. Heck) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. HECK. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is about tackling a problem that, frankly, we have all got to address in one of our districts, and that is storm water.

Most of us probably don’t think about it very much, but, frankly, when rain falls—it does a lot of that in the Northwest—and flows through our streets and off the shoulders of our highways, it picks up all sorts and kinds of pollutants. We are talking, frankly, about some really nasty stuff: toxic chemicals like arsenic and flame retardants, as well as oil and pesticides.

Stop and think. The single largest contributor of water pollution in the United States of America is storm water runoff—up to 80 percent in some places.

Toxic storm water runoff harms our rivers and our lakes and our waterways. But it not only harms our environment, it harms our businesses that depend on clean water, like the shellfish industry. In Washington State which employs, literally, thousands of people.

In Puget Sound, the largest estuary in America, storm water runoff literally can kill a salmon in a few hours. Well, salmon and other fish are a way of life in Washington, to the tune of a $30 billion, with a B, economy.

Salmon also serve as a vital resource of immeasurable value. For the 19 federally recognized Tribes in the Puget Sound, salmon is their way of life. They are called the salmon people.

If we fail to address the problem posed by storm water, these resources will continue to decline, and our communities will continue to pay an avoidable price.

So what are we doing right now to stop this from happening? The answer is: a few things, but nowhere near enough.

We are going to truly address the problem, the Federal Government needs to do the basic, and that is set an example. The good news is that Congress has recognized this in the past, because about 10 years ago this body passed a law which requires Federal agencies to reduce storm water runoff when they develop or redevelop property. That is a commonsense requirement, but we can’t stop there.

Research shows that the most cost-effective and efficient way to reduce storm water runoff is through what is called green infrastructure, or low-impact development, things like rain gardens and permeable pavement and green roofs.

You probably won’t be surprised when I share that the largest storm water research center in the United States of America is in my district at our land-grant university, Washington State University’s extension campus in Puyallup. So I am a witness to the promise and the potential of this approach.

This amendment simply provides funding for the Army Corps of Engineers to determine to what extent they are using these technologies and technologies that we have come to rely on.

Mr. Chairman, if we are going to help communities and businesses impacted by toxic storm water runoff, it is crucial that the Federal Government set the example and lead the way. So I ask you to join me as responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars and ensure that Federal agencies are using the latest and most efficient technology to manage storm water runoff.

Finally, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to the chair of the committee, my friend from Idaho, and the ranking member from Ohio very, very much. I urge adoption of this amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I agree with what the gentleman is trying to do. I would just point out again that this amendment does not direct the funds to any particular activity, so it will actually take some coordination with us and some conversation with the Army Corps of Engineers to make sure that this goes in the area that we would like it to go to. To study just what the gentleman was talking about.

But because it doesn’t direct it to a particular activity, for that reason and because it does not upset the balance of
Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, this is going to be something that the ranking member looks upon to disagree on. Poison pill riders—I have always liked that term, “poison pill riders.” What they are are policy changes. If they are policy changes you like, they are policy changes. If you don’t like them, they are poison pill riders. So when they had the majority, they put what we considered poison pill riders in their bill, but they were policy changes, and that is what we do in some appropriations bills.

But I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. I have been debating this issue for, I don’t know, probably 10 years. While the change in the administration means that we are able to reduce the number of the issues we needed to address in this bill, some issues warrant continued congressional attention—WOTUS is one of them.

My reason for opposing the Obama administration’s WOTUS rule remains the same. The rule would greatly expand Federal jurisdiction over the Clean Water Act. The Supreme Court has twice ruled that the definition used under the Clean Water Act of navigable waters was hard to define and told them that they need a new definition.

Well, the EPA’s design on a new definition is, okay, we will just control everything. So everybody thinks that those waters that are now under control of the Clean Water—I mean, of the WOTUS rule written by the Obama administration were unregulated before. They were not unregulated. They were regulated by the States, and the States did a good job of regulating those things.

But now the Federal Government has come in and taken control of all of those States. We think, and the courts have ruled, that this is too broad a definition of what they intended and what the Clean Water rule states.

Nobody wants dirty water—nobody. But what we want is a rule that separates what the Federal Government has the authority to control and what the States have the authority to control.

President Trump moved quickly on this issue by issuing an executive order in February, and a few weeks ago, the EPA and the Corps announced the first step in a two-step process: a proposed rule to rescind the WOTUS rule and re-codify the previous regulatory text.

The second step will be a second rule-making to reevaluate the definition of waters of the United States in a manner consistent with the Supreme Court decision.

The provision in this bill is supportive of these efforts. First, it provides clear authorization to withdraw the Obama administration’s rule. Second, it clarifies what rule will be in effect if the WOTUS rule is withdrawn, specifically, the same rules that were in effect immediately prior to the promulgation of the final WOTUS rule. And third, it does not affect the Trump administration’s ability to develop a new rule, one that will provide more clarity and more legal bounds provided by the Supreme Court.

For these reasons, I have to oppose this amendment, and I strongly oppose this amendment.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to comment in asking my colleagues to support this amendment, that the amendment itself is intended to address the two Supreme Court decisions. And in addition, if we leave this language in the bill, the chairman was talking about what the legislation is about. This doesn’t belong in an appropriation bill. Let them deal with this in the courts and the authorizing committees.

I think it creates a very, very high speed bump that threatens our bill’s passage as we move forward, so I ask my colleagues to support us on striking the provision related to the waters of the United States, section 108 offered by myself and Mr. BEYER of Virginia.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS).

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman so much for his leadership on this issue.

WOTUS, waters of the U.S., it has really been talked about for a number of years. This is a classic case of Barack Obama, the administration prior to the Trump administration, overreaching its authority. This is executive branch takeover, waters of the U.S., saying that we have got what is called navigable waters and using the executive authority to redefine what navigable waters are.

This hurts farmers. This hurts small businesses. The suggestion that just a puddle, a small creek is defined as a navigable water, we know that is simply not the case.

Let me remind folks about the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judiciary. We have Supreme Court decisions that were putting a stop to the overreach of the Obama administration’s WOTUS rule.

Thank you to the courts.

We now have an opportunity as the legislative branch. We appreciate the fact that Donald Trump and Scott Pruitt and this administration are working to put a stop to it, because the Court said, as we all know, the Obama administration over-reached.

Now what we are doing, what this appropriations bill provides is the voice of the legislative branch to say, yes, the prior administration overreached; the executive branch historically needs to be curtailed; the courts were right. We need to speak as the legislative branch giving the authority to stop this overregulation.
I thank the chair, and I certainly oppose this proposed amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 38 OFFERED BY MS. CASTOR OF FLORIDA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 38 printed in House Report 115–259.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. 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:

Page 286, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by $177,000,000)".

Page 286, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $355,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, this Republican bill weakens America’s commitment to clean energy. It harms the huge number of jobs that are being created in the renewable energy sector. And it stalls consumer cost savings tied to energy efficiency.

Democrats have a different vision. It is one that lowers costs on our neighbors back home, and helps create the higher paying jobs of the future.

My amendment increases funding for the Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy account by about $177 million, and it reduces funding for the fossil Energy Research and Development account by about $355 million.

Energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives across America have a proven return on investment for taxpayers. This amendment is paid for by reducing, but not eliminating, accounts that do not have the same return on investment for taxpayers.

Investments in energy efficiency and renewables create jobs and help make our businesses more competitive. Energy efficiency reduces costs for consumers. And wouldn’t that be a positive for our taxpayers back home, that the Congress is asking to put more money back into their pockets?

The amount proposed for energy efficiency and renewable energy in the Republican bill is so low that America will have to reduce the number of research, development, and demonstration projects that are often supported with industry, at our great national laboratories, and at our fantastic universities.

Mr. Chairman, America should be a leader in innovation and technological advancement. But, instead, the Republican bill says America should take a back seat. Well, America should not take a back seat to anyone. We are in the midst of a technological revolution when it comes to energy and energy efficiency.

Look what is happening all across America. We have a very diverse energy portfolio and a growing clean energy and efficiency sector. This is especially important as we tackle the costs and challenges of the changing climate.

Look at what we are today because of robust investments of the past decade. The solar industry is creating jobs 12 times faster than the overall U.S. workforce. In 2016, 1 out of every 50 new jobs was in solar energy.

Republicans used to say they were for all-of-the-above sources of energy. Well, you can’t say that anymore.

The Trump administration and House Republicans are ceding America’s leadership role in the world by failing to invest in technologies that will save families and businesses money.

Instead, we should work together and face the challenges of the changing climate head-on and not bury our heads in the sand. Sixteen of the 17 hottest years on record have occurred since 2001; including 2016, which was the third consecutive record-breaking year.

The rising costs of the changing climate are a real threat to everyone, especially to the families I represent back home in Florida, which is why I filed another amendment that was not ruled in order, an amendment that would limit the Department of Energy from removing the term ‘climate change’ from their publications.

That is right, the Trump administration has already removed mention of climate change from government websites, and has deleted a sentence linking climate change to sea level rise in a press release. Ignoring or trying to hide the cost of the changing climate will simply cost us more in the long run.

We should be working together on investing in a clean energy future, but that, unfortunately, seems farther away today, unless we adopt an amendment like mine and begin to understand the realities that we are facing.

If we don’t unleash American ingenuity now, our neighbors back home will face higher AC bills, property insurance bills, flood insurance bills, and have to put more property taxes into replacing water and wastewater infrastructure.

I appreciate Ranking Member KAPTUR’s vision. A little while ago, she was talking about our national labs—the fact that we have the best scientists in the world, and by cutting back on our investments in clean energy and energy efficiency. She understands that this is our future that we are talking about. I appreciate her work. I appreciate the work of Chairman SIMPSON. I urge an ‘aye’ vote on the Castor amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.
the past, we had far more amount of money in this.

We need to preserve what we have, and, actually, I am hoping we can plus it up a little bit.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. 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 gentlewoman from Florida will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MR. NORCROSS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 39 printed in House Report 115-259.

Mr. NORCROSS. 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:

Page 286, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ``(increased by $161,725,000)''.

Page 286, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert ``(increased by $223,480,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chairman, this important amendment looks to the future and what we need for our 21st century clean energy economy. It redirects funds so we are sufficiently investing in renewable energy jobs of tomorrow.

It is a simple change. The amendment simply moves $162 million to the Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy. It leaves the amount in that account, and the underlying bill still exceeds what the administration requested.

Certainly my colleague from West Virginia understands that investing in the technology of the future is extremely important.

This bill provides $354 million more for fossil fuels. But by providing the additional resources for energy efficiency and renewable energy, we can better meet the needs of the future economy. I happen to agree, we need to invest in all of the above. But we also must invest in solar, wind, water, and geothermal. In fact, New Jersey is second in the Nation leading in solar and renewable energy. We must seek that cost-effective way of reducing energy costs for our manufacturing plants, our office buildings, and certainly our homes.

We shouldn't underfund our energy future, but we also wouldn't want to make that clean energy jobs of tomorrow.

Let's make this simple change and reallocate just a small portion of the fund. I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment and embrace the clean energy future.

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

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

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

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman from New Jersey's amendment.

The fossil Energy Research and Development account actually helps the Nation use the full extent of our resources safely, wisely, and efficiently. I always hear--and I have heard it several times tonight already--that they support an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy.

Unfortunately, this amendment does just the opposite. It picks energy winners and losers. The level of funding for fossil Energy R&D in this year's bill recognizes the important role fossil energy plays in our Nation's future.

At a time when fossil power generation is actually expanding around the globe, the activities funded in the bill advance our Nation's position as a leader in fossil energy technologies.

I just hosted a conference in my home State of West Virginia on something that is a lot of attention lately: rare earth elements.

I want everybody just to think about that phone that they hold in their hand or, if they are watching on TV, that TV in their home.

Guess what. These phones and those TVs have what is called rare earth elements. And you would think by the term "rare earth," it must mean, gosh, they are rare, hard to find.

Guess what. Rare earth elements are found in many places. Amazingly, coal contains an abundant supply of rare earth elements.

This is important to our national security because, currently, China has a monopoly on the rare earth element market. Ninety percent of all rare earth elements that are in every phone and every TV are controlled by China. But we know that coal, through research, can unlock an abundant supply of these critical elements that we need for everyday technology.

So this just isn't about energy production. This is about everyday items that impact our life.

So for our Nation's security and electrical grid reliability and use of our domestic fossil fuel resources, investment in fossil R&D is critical. Each of these programs represent a partnership with the private sector that provides an even greater leverage to Federal funds.

Therefore, I urge our Members to vote against the gentleman from New Jersey's amendment to support fossil energy R&D for our country and for our future.

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

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, in many ways, I think my colleague from the other side of the aisle is agreeing with me. We need to do research, that R&D that he is speaking about, but it is about balance. The dollars that were in the underlying bill far exceeded that of what the administration asked for.

We are simply saying, let's not pick one winner, let's pick them all, and see where that technology of tomorrow is taking us.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the Congresswoman from Maine (Ms. Pingree) for her remarks.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of the Norcross amendment, and I want to thank my colleague for calling attention to this issue and the importance of EERE.

I represent the State of Maine, and we have over 3,000 miles of tidal coastline and millions of acres of forest. We are fortunate for our natural resources and the recreational opportunities that they provide, so it would be no surprise that these resources are providing our residents with an abundance of renewable energy sources.

Our State's natural resources and our efforts have made us one of the leaders in renewable energy development. From solar, to wind, to tidal, to biomass, Maine is a leader in renewable energy.

Because our State is largely a rural one, with many diverse energy needs in our rural and island communities, we are particularly attentive to rising energy costs and the need to have more ways to solve them.

This amendment today would restore funds to the EERE account, and it will help the State of Maine, like so many other States like it that are working hard to move our energy policy to the 21st century.

We have traditionally been one of the most oil-dependent States in the country, but this will help us address rising energy costs with more tools and technologies at our disposal.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support renewable energy, and I support this amendment.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the gentleman from New Jersey's amendment.

Let me simply state, while he proposes an increase to the Energy Efficiency R&D account and the Fossil Energy R&D account, I would urge him to consider the opposite of that. Mr. Chairman, I claim the balance of my time.

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

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, I urge you to vote against the amendment that I have offered, particularly in light of the amendments that we have heard today. It is a simple change, and we are simply asking for a fair share of the funds that are available in this bill.
development that can generate rare Earth elements and other things that we have talked about, in addition to use for our power generation.

Mr. Chair, I simply oppose this amendment and ask for its rejection.

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

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, may I inquire how much time I have left.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey will be recognized.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, this is the first time I have ever heard “gutting” by giving millions of additional dollars over the administration.

I have worked in nuclear power houses. I have worked in coal power houses, gas-fired, I have worked in solar fields. This is absolutely about the future of our energy needs. We don’t know what it holds, but I do know that investing in research and development is the way to go.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is now on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, 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 New Jersey will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 40 OFFERED BY MR. QUIGLEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 40 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 286, line 24, after the dollar amount insert “(increased $921,000,000)”.

Page 287, line 21, after the dollar amount insert “(increased $921,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, some of us in this room are old enough to remember duck and cover. As kids, the notion was that, if you hid under a half-inch plywood piece of desk under a thermoclear attack, you would be safe. It is not a particularly rational idea, but not much more rational than our current nuclear posture.

For decades, Presidents and Members of Congress from both parties have worked together to prevent the use and spread of nuclear weapons and materials. Starting with President Reagan’s leadership, American Presidents have reduced the size of America’s nuclear arsenal from its Cold War peak. In fact, Republican Presidents have cut the arsenal far more aggressively than their Democratic counterparts, yet this year’s Energy and Water bill doubles down on an outdated Cold War strategy by unnecessarily diverting precious resources to build new nuclear weapons.

It remains unclear how these weapons will solve 21st century national security threats such as terrorism, cyber attacks, or global warming.

Rather than investing to keep up the status quo, we must find ways to replace the U.S. nuclear arsenal while maintaining a force capable of deterring nuclear attack against the U.S. and its allies.

In 2013, the Pentagon determined that the U.S. could reduce its deployed strategic nuclear force by one-third below its current levels and still meet security requirements. According to the former vice chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the military utility of U.S. tactical nuclear weapons, such as the B61, is practically nil. Defense Secretary Mattis has raised doubts about the need for the new ICBMs, and they are not needed to target the new nuclear-armed cruise missile.

Rather than wasting tax dollars to keep up the status quo, we must find ways to replace the U.S. nuclear arsenal while maintaining a force capable of nuclear deterrence.

It is worse than that. This bill proposes to add nearly $1 billion to the nuclear weapons activities account by gutting the Department of Energy offices responsible for research and application of technology to increase energy efficiency and renewable energy. DOE’s EERE has traditionally enjoyed bipartisan support and is crucial to research and development in clean renewable energy, energy use reduction technologies, vehicle engines, geothermal technology, and advanced batteries.

This is a government success story. The $12 billion we invested in EERE, through 2015, yielded more than $230 billion benefit to the U.S. economy, and EERE has an annual return on investment of more than 20 percent. Entire industries are built on the back of the work EERE does, stimulating a robust domestic clean energy economy.

The role of EERE is also critical to furthering the transition to a low-carbon economy and ensuring long-term, robust, sustainable economic growth. That is why this amendment would take $922 million from nuclear weapons activities and give it back to EERE.

Just to be clear, this would still be a cut to that office. The current bill funds EERE at $986 million less than the current enacted level, but it would go a long way towards fixing this mistake.

Mr. Chair, I urge committee members to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment—not just opposition to this amendment, but strong opposition to this amendment.

This bill fully funds the request of $10.2 billion for weapons activities, which is, as the gentleman stated, an increase of $921 million over fiscal year 2017.

I have got to tell you, from his comments, you would think we were growing the nuclear stockpile. The reality is we are decreasing the size of the nuclear stockpile currently under the new START program. But even having done that, we have to fund the modernization of our nuclear stockpile, and it is one of my highest priorities in this bill.

The activities the gentleman proposes to cut are the primary reasons the Energy and Water bill is being included as a division in the Defense minibus, because maintaining the nuclear weapons stockpile is essential to our Nation’s national security.

The increase provided in this bill to weapons activities is needed to extend the life of four nuclear warheads and to sustain the continued development of the infrastructure at the Department of Energy’s nuclear sites. These investments are long overdue and must be funded if our Nation is to have a credible nuclear deterrent, regardless of the size of that nuclear deterrent.

I would say that the Department of Defense is carrying out a nuclear posture review that will inform future funding needs. Until that concludes, there is no change in our Nation’s nuclear defense requirements, and Congress, I believe, must fully fund those requirements if our Nation is to have a credible nuclear deterrent.

Increases are also needed, as I said, to address the aging infrastructure at the Department of Energy’s nuclear energy sites.

Mr. Chair, I strongly oppose this amendment that the gentleman from Illinois is offering and would encourage my colleagues to vote against it.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, respectfully, what the gentleman is talking about has been done many times. Again, in 2013, the Pentagon said we could do this with one-third of the weapons we have now.

The cost of restoring a weapon like the B61 is more than its weight in gold. We have already been told we have too many. So the plan here is, let’s restore and as many as possible, build as many as we possibly can, and maybe in the future we will be told again that we don’t need this many. In the meantime, we are using those resources to cut necessary programs.

Mr. Chair, I ask for Members’ support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I would say that the Secretary of Energy is required to report to the President on...
the safety and reliability of our nuclear stockpile. This is part of that requirement by the Department of Energy so that they can assure the President that our nuclear stockpile is safe and reliable. Modernizing these nuclear weapons makes sense.

Now, we can sit and argue whether we need all these nuclear weapons or not—I happen to think we can get by on quite a number fewer nuclear weapons—but we still have to maintain the nuclear weapons stockpile that we currently have and let the Department of Defense do their Nuclear Posture Review and make a determination of what ought to be the ultimate number of nuclear weapons we have, but, as long as we have this, we have got to make sure they are safe and they are reliable.

Mr. Chair, I would encourage my colleagues to vote against this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. POLIS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider Amendment No. 41 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 286, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by $986,292,000)".
Page 286, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $634,600,000)".
Page 297, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $352,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado, Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, my amendment would simply restore the funding cuts to the Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy account just to fund at the same levels it was funded last year. That is $986 million. And I will tell you where we find those funds and take it from in a minute. It takes them from two programs: the fossil fuel energy and research, development and the nuclear weapons account.

So we should invest in our future for energy efficiency and renewable energy rather than throwing more money at the past and into nuclear weapons.

Fossil fuel research and development is a dead end for America, for our economy, for the clean air that we need, and for our water. Continuing to fund fossil fuels, whether it makes them marginally cleaner or not, is simply throwing at the past rather than the future.

Regardless of how clean we make fossil fuel extraction, it is never as clean or, more importantly, as sustainable as renewable energy, and definitely won’t be as cheap or sustainable as clean energy.

I am the proud sponsor of a bill for our country to reach 100 percent renewable energy by 2050, but to be able to do that, we need the investment in research and development.

Frankly, investing in nuclear weapons when we already have enough nuclear capabilities to destroy every man, woman, and child seven times over is simply wasteful. Nuclear weapons receive over $10 billion, while renewable energy receives a measly $986 million.

I was talking to one of my constituents a little while ago, Nancy Cronk from Colorado, and she agreed that we simply spend too much on potentially having the capability of destroying the world through nuclear weapons, rather than investing in a renewable energy future.

We don’t live in Cold War times. We don’t need Cold War-level spending for facilities that the military hasn’t used in over 20 years.

We should be following the advice, in this case, of the Department of Defense and focusing on the renewable energy account, which helps fund national labs like the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden.

The most recent study of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory’s economic impact alone shows it totaled over $30 billion nationwide. In addition, CU Boulder and NREL jointly operate the Renewable and Sustainable Energy Institute, which is located in Colorado, which helps advance renewable energy science, engineering, and analysis through industry partnerships and education.

That is the future of our country, Mr. Chairman, and the future of the world. And by undercutting our investment in our future and throwing money at the past, and being so keen to kill every man, woman, and child seven times instead of six times, we are losing the forest through the trees, and we are making our country less secure, not more secure.

The Building Technologies Offices, NREL, and many others receiving funds under this account do amazing work to pull us into the 21st century, like using 3D printing for wind blades. Not only that, their work helps save consumers money because of energy efficiency.

In fact, an estimate shows that from 2009 to 2015, the work of the Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy program has saved consumers more than $543 billion and removed carbon pollution by 2.3 billion metric tons.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I am not opposed to the EERE. I actually like the program. But we had to make some difficult decisions, and our highest priority is maintaining our nuclear stockpile and making sure that our defense activities were fully funded.

Secondly, it was making sure that the Army Corps of Engineers was fully funded at the WRDA level that our colleagues here on the floor always insist on. That means we had to make some difficult decisions within the Department of Energy. EERE, we did the best we could.

But when the gentleman says, you know, we are not living in the Cold War anymore, so we don’t need the nuclear weapons and stuff and we don’t need these facilities and stuff, you are right, we are not living in the Cold War anymore. It is scarier times right now than it was in the Cold War.

You never need those facilities until you need those facilities, and you better have had them by then. That is the problem. It is not looking forward.

So I oppose this amendment because we have done our best within the weapons activities to make sure that we do what our Nation requires, and that is to make sure that we have a safe, reliable, and secure nuclear stockpile.

And we ought to let the Defense Department come out with their Nuclear Posture Review and tell us what they believe we need as a weapons system, altogether, when that review comes out.

I oppose it also because it takes money for the arguments made by my friends from West Virginia, because it takes money out of the fossil energy research. As they said every time I have asked the Department of Energy, “What do you think the amount of energy we are going to consume over the next 20 or 30 years that comes from hydrocarbons, coal, and natural gas, is going to be in the future?” It is actually a larger part, not a smaller part.

And while I have been to NREL. I think NREL is a great lab. They do some incredible work out there. We want to support them. We want to make sure that they stay open and that they can do the job that we have asked them to do and that our other labs can also.

But this amendment, I think, is directly the wrong direction to go.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I will be very brief.

By my calculation, this is about the third or fourth amendment from the minority trying to take money out of a very important future-looking initiative, the fossil energy R&D, and redirect it elsewhere. They keep trying to raid this important funding.

I am sitting here with my colleague from West Virginia, who NETL is actually physically in his district. There is no stronger champion of NETL than
the gentleman from West Virginia. This is hundreds of jobs in our State, in his district, but the impact of their work reaches across the country and literally around the world.

I spoke on a previous attack on this funding. I defend strongly the work of the fossil energy R&D. And to suggest this is just looking to yesterday is missing the point that I made a moment ago talking about rare earth elements and unlocking the potential that these fossil resources have in so many ways, not just energy production.

So I thank the chairman of the subcommittee for recognizing and supporting fossil energy R&D; and my colleague from West Virginia, who is such a staunch supporter of NETL, and my ability to work with him.

Please, I encourage people to reject the gentleman’s amendment.

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for recognizing the importance of the Energy Efficient & Renewable Energy account. It is an incredibly high priority for economic development. We talked about the jobs and technology transfers that come out of that fund. We also talked about its need for energy independence in our future.

I hope the chairman is willing to work on finding other agreeable funding sources to hold that account harmless and plus it up.

I want to highlight a couple of other important projects funded from the EERE account, large and small. One example is the EERE’s Vehicle Technologies Office which awarded $500,000. It doesn’t sound like a lot, but it makes an enormous difference on the ground for the Clean City Coalition to support Project FEVER, to foster the development of Colorado State’s accelerated electric vehicles, which are in extremely high demand.

The Clean Cities project helped to develop a comprehensive electric vehicle strategy, including supply readiness and charging infrastructure. The project has already saved over 7.5 billion gallons of petroleum.

These are just some of the many projects that we should be focused on because they are truly our future. Raising a moment ago, I defend strongly the nuclear arsenal, rather than throwing money into the past with additional fossil fuel research, we can move toward cleaner air, cleaner water, more jobs, a stronger economy, and energy independence through clean, renewable energy.

That is why I ask you to support my amendment that will increase EERE funding and decrease funding for fossil fuel research and unnecessary and dangerous nukes that would destroy the world more than is reasonably needed as a deterrent.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to adopt my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 42 OFFERED BY MR. MCKINLEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 42 printed in House Report 115-259.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Acting Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

On page 286, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by $33,400,000)”.

On page 286, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by $33,400,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is simple. We are merely restoring the Fossil Energy Research & Development Program back to the levels of 2017—merely back to the levels of 2017.

We must put it in perspective. It is still $300 million less than it was under President Bush.

Let’s also look at it in perspective. As I showed earlier on the chart, the consumption of fossil fuels make up 81 percent of all the country’s energy consumption: 81 percent fossil fuels of coal, natural gas, and oil. But the level of research is only at 18 percent of the money that we have currently.

Now, I just heard a minute ago someone say this is pretty balanced. Look, I may be just an engineer, but I don’t think 18 percent is the equivalent of 81 percent. There is something wrong with that.

I am not here to argue that America shouldn’t be investing in renewables and nuclear. That wouldn’t be appropriate. But the reality is that America and the entire world will be relying on fossil energy for years to come.

The Energy Information Administration estimated that by 2040, fossil energy is still going to make up 78 percent of the world’s consumption. So shouldn’t it be America’s goal to lead the world, to have that mantle of leadership, to develop the technologies that we can export to other countries around the world that are going to continue to use coal and gas and oil in the cleaner and more efficient way?

Shouldn’t we, again, be the global leader on this?

But we can’t do this without leadership.

Mr. Chairman, let’s consider the history of this. The fossil fuel research from the Federal Government. Just remember the threat years ago, back in the eighties, we had of acid rain. It was the research in our Federal labs all across America that reduced the emissions of SOx and NOx gases and addressing greenhouse gasses and addressed it.

The reduction in CO2 emissions around the globe and around America have come as a result of fossil fuel research. On a per capita basis today, we are now emitting—one on a per capita basis, this is the lowest level of CO2 emissions we have had in over 50 years, thanks to fossil fuel research.

And the shale gas revolution that made America the largest producer of oil in the world, it originated in our Federal laboratories in research. That is just part of where we have been.

Now go into the future. Someone said this is a fuel of the past. How can it be when the R&D money—look what they are working on in our labs all across America, virtually in every one of our districts across this country. We are doing a carbon capture, utilization, and storage. We are doing chemical looping. They are studying and understanding methane hydrates.

You talked earlier about rare earth elements being detected now in coal seams all across America.

What about oxy-combustion?

All of that is coming out of current research. Fresh research that I believe we will be able to export around the world that so other countries will be able to burn their coal more cleanly.

So, look, Congress should not be in the way, picking winners or losers, and it shouldn’t be picking the work of our laboratories. If we are serious about reducing emissions, Congress should be putting more money into this program, not reducing it.

In an ideal world, the funding level for R&D should be much higher. As I said, under President Bush it was $300 million more than it is today. But I understand the fiscal constraints we have.

So let’s utilize our domestic energy source, energy supply in the most efficient and clean way possible. We do that through our research from our Federal laboratories.

Mr. Chairman, I urge the House to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPUTR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPUTR. I respect Congressman McKinley’s amendment and his desire to help America and help his own State. And for my entire career, I have voted for clean coal research and development because southern Ohio has a whole lot of BTUs underground in the form of coal.

However, I really object to the gentleman taking the funds from the Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy account. I would like you to know that that account, in this bill, is cut $986 million below last year’s level, and that is a deep concern because that is the part of our economy that is growing.

Ten percent of the jobs produced in the energy sector are in renewables, and we actually employ more people in so-called dirty jobs in wind energy extraction and coal extraction. So we know that a major part of our future lies in new energy technologies, these developing...
Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise. The motion was agreed to. Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEINER of Texas) having assumed the chair. Mr. DONOVAN, from the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3219, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-261) on the resolution (H. Res. 478) providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 473 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. 3219.

Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) kindly resume 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. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, with Mr. DONOVAN (acting chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole House rose earlier today, amendment No. 42 printed in House Report 115-259, offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. McKINLEY) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 41 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk now offers amendment No. 41.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise. The motion was agreed to. Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEINER of Texas) having assumed the chair. Mr. DONOVAN, from the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3219, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

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Hydropower is safe. It harms neither fish nor man. It all faces a comprehensive and regular regulatory approval process.

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

Ms. BONAMICI. I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair. I rise today in support of Mr. PERRY’s amendment and the power and potential of clean marine hydrokinetic energy, and I first want to thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTRU for their leadership in supporting the Water Power Technologies Office. The Water Power Technologies Office invests in research and development that supports hydropower, pumped storage, and marine energy.

Furthermore, I want to thank the chair and ranking member for including $30 million in the 2017 omnibus for the creation of a wave energy test center, which is now located at Oregon State University. This robust investment will help the United States lead in the field of marine hydrokinetic energy. The increase this amendment proposes will support hydropower and the development of innovative hydropower technologies, along with marine and hydrokinetic energy technologies. Development of these new technologies can offer the United States leadership in an emerging area of abundant renewable energy.

Marine and hydrokinetic energy, in particular, energy from waves, currents, and tides, is an exciting frontier in the renewable energy sector. Currently, Oregon State University, University of Washington, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks are partnering to support the testing and research activities of the Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center. This center will provide visionary entrepreneurs with a domestic location to test wave energy devices, along with other technologies, rather than traveling to Scotland to use the European test center. Without continued Federal investment, Europe will retain the leader in this important work.

When fully developed, wave and tidal energy systems could generate a significant amount of total energy used in the United States. As Congress promotes technologies that can help lower our constituents’ energy bills, we must explore new and innovative solutions like hydrokinetic renewable energy.

Thank you again to the chairman and ranking member for their hard work and legislative leadership on this issue, and thank you to Representative PERRY for his leadership.

Mr. Chair, I urge support for this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, a lot of what we hear is that our constituents wish that we would work together more often, and I thank the gentlewoman for her comments and her support; and I think it is just proof that we can work together for something that we all agree with: clean power, the power to just power our future, and that comes from hydroelectricity.

I don’t know why it is not as sexy as it should be. I think it is one of the greatest marvels of technology starting back since the beginning of time, and when power was first generated, and I don’t understand why we don’t rely on it more.

To that end, literally 60,000 megawatts of preliminary permits and projects await final approval and are pending before FERC in 45 States right now. Eighty thousand—80,000—nonpowered dams in the United States, of which 600 have immediate hydro capability, right now could be producing energy.

Mr. Chair, 80,000 nonpowered dams in the United States, just think about that. And the State I hail from and I am privileged to represent a portion of, Pennsylvania, has 676 megawatts of untapped energy.

Mr. Chairman, I would just urge all of our colleagues to vote for this amendment.

I, again, appreciate the chairmen of the subcommittee and of the full committee for this opportunity, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to the remaining time, please.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman has 21/2 minutes remaining.

Ms. BONAMICI. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE), a strong supporter of hydropower.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much to my colleague from Oregon for yielding me time. Mr. Chairman, I, too, want to rise in support, today, of the PERRY amendment.

I thank my colleague from Oregon and my colleague from Pennsylvania for their leadership on this important renewable energy issue.

I also want to thank the chair of the subcommittee, Mr. SIMPSON, whom I am fortunate to also serve on the Interstate Committee with. Mr. SIMPSON has worked hard on this bill to increase some of the levels of funding above the abysmal levels that were proposed by the administration’s budget earlier this year.

And also, to our ranking member, Ms. KAPTRU, my friend from Ohio, I thank her for her commitment to renewable energy and our energy future.

The amendment before us today would provide a modest increase in funding to the Department of Energy’s Water Power Program, a bipartisan effort, and I am pleased to be part of that. It comes from the fact that many parts of the country are seeking the real benefits of tidal energy that generates incredible power, or of hydrokinetic power that taps the power of flowing water.

In response to my colleague from Pennsylvania, in Maine, we think tidal energy is very sexy.

The Department of Energy supports private sector research, development, and implementation of hydropower, pumped storage, and marine tidal energy. It supports cutting-edge research and makes sure that the office supports all three types of water-based technologies.

Last year, nearly 100 teams competed in a competition for an Energy Department-funded wave energy prize, with 20 finalists coming from 10 States, showing the breadth of interest in this work. Congress needs to support multifaceted work at a level that will continue to allow for innovation.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all my colleagues to support renewable energy, support water power, and support the PERRY amendment.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I strongly support this amendment and encourage all of you to do the same.

As the sponsor of the amendment explained, this does not take additional money, but cuts down on bureaucracy, and puts the dollars into important work, like marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 44 OFFERED BY MS. ESTY OF CONNECTICUT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 44 printed in House Report 115–259.

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk. The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 286, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by $20,000,000)”.

Page 288, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by $40,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 3, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. Esty) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut.

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, I, too, want to rise in support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Our amendment is about protecting and creating millions of good-paying jobs.
jobs in Connecticut and across the country. Our amendment will help us ensure that the technologically advanced products of the future will be manufactured, not in China, not in India, but right here in the United States of America.

The Department of Energy’s Advanced Manufacturing Office is the only technology development office within the Federal Government that is dedicated to enhancing American manufacturing competitiveness. The Advanced Manufacturing Office works to help manufacturers improve energy and material efficiency, technology, and productivity.

Unfortunately, the appropriations bill before us today cuts funding to the Advanced Manufacturing Office by $155.5 million from fiscal year 2017 enacted levels, and that is a mistake.

Manufacturing is one of the most important sectors of our U.S. economy. In 2016, manufacturing contributed $2.18 trillion to our economy and employed 12.3 million workers. In my home State of Connecticut, manufacturing has long been our economic backbone. Connecticut home to nearly 5,000 manufacturing companies that provide good-paying jobs for 76,000 Connecticut residents. This amendment helps American manufacturers all across the country to be more competitive by reducing energy costs.

Manufacturing is very energy intensive. In fact, according to the National Association of Manufacturers, manufacturers consume more than 30 percent of our country’s energy. That translates to $130 billion in costs to U.S. manufacturers every year.

Adequately funding the Advanced Manufacturing Office, will help reduce energy costs to manufacturers, freeing up that money to be invested in research and development, expand their facilities, and, most importantly, hire more people.

Our amendment also helps American manufacturing companies hire more people by addressing critical workforce needs in energy efficiency.

Last year, I visited Forum Plastics, a plastic molding company based in Waterbury, Connecticut. I met with employees to discuss the expectations and challenges facing manufacturers in America today, and one of the topics that came up was how businesses struggle to hire workers with the right skills. Yet, that same year, Forum Plastics worked with the Advanced Manufacturing Office to carry out an industrial assessment project.

The Industrial Assessment Centers program is a tool for employers to recruit individuals with hands-on experience and education. The Acting CHAIR, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, first, let me say, it was not a $300-some-odd-million plus-up in the fossil energy research account. In fact, I think the fossil energy research account was down from last year.

It was more than the President requested, but it is not a plus-up from what it was in 2017.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment. The amendment would reduce funding for the Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy by $20 million but has to use $40 million from the Fossil Energy Research & Development account as an offset.

This bill was the result of some tough choices. I have to admit, they were some tough choices. It is not that I oppose the program that the good lady advocates for, but there were some tough choices. We had to prioritize research and development that will increase our energy independence.

Our domestic energy resources are vast, and this bill strikes a balance to lay the foundations for future energy generation technologies, while maintaining funding for the resources we use most today.

Increasing funding for EERE by diverting funding from fossil energy the Environmental Justice program. The Acting CHAIR, pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut will be postponed.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 46 will not be offered.

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 49 printed in House Report 115-259.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. 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:

Page 296, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $1,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The question is taken; and the Acting CHAIR will designate the amendment.

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

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY).

The question was taken; and the Acting CHAIR announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

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

The Chair understands that amendment No. 46 will not be offered.

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 49 printed in House Report 115-259.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. 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:

Page 296, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $1,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The question is taken; and the Acting CHAIR will designate the amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY).

The question was taken; and the Acting CHAIR announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

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

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The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 296, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $1,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The question is taken; and the Acting CHAIR will designate the amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY).

The question was taken; and the Acting CHAIR announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

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Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY).

The question was taken; and the Acting CHAIR announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

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

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The Acting CHAIR. The question is taken; and the Acting CHAIR will designate the amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY).

The question was taken; and the Acting CHAIR announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

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

The Chair understands that amendment No. 46 will not be offered.

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Ms. JACKSON LEE. 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:

Page 296, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $1,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The question is taken; and the Acting CHAIR will designate the amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.
young people and faculty to work on these important issues. The crisis in Flint, Michigan, teaches us how important it is that minority groups and low-income communities are not placed at a disadvantage when it comes to environmental threats and hazards like lead in drinking water and a lot of heat, did not breed these mosquitos to create a devastating condition in some of our communities. This Environmental Justice program is extremely important, involving community education and advisory projects, community capacity building through technology, the Community Leaders Institute, but, more importantly, it works on important research.

Mr. Chair, might I find out how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 21/2 minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I want to make note of the fact that in some of the universities that participate in this program, the chairs meaning the faculty chairs—are a team of world-class scholars, researchers, and educators from 14 Historically Black Colleges and Universities, one Hispanic-serving institution, who advance research, enhance academics, promote partnerships, and effect outreach in the environmental science.

Finally, the Minority Serving Institutions Program that includes a wide array of institutions provides funding to minority-serving institutions to advance scientific research, student internships, faculty fellowships, and curriculum development.

Mr. Chair, the more we can invest in science and research, helping to improve our environment, and let me make it very clear, in urban and rural areas. This is not an urban program only. It is urban and rural areas. The more we can help our communities be clean and environmentally safe and secure, the more we create a better quality of life for all people, no matter what their economic station in life or where they live.

Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member KAPTUR for shepherding legislation to the floor and for their commitment to preserving America’s great natural environment and resources so that they can serve and be enjoyed by generations to come.

My amendment increases funding for DOE departmental administration by $1,000,000 which would be required to conduct Department’s Environmental Justice program activities.

Mr. Chair, the Environmental Justice Program is an essential tool in the effort to improve the lives of low income and minority communities as well as the environment at large.

Twenty years ago, on February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, directing federal agencies to identify and address the disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their actions on minority and low-income populations.

A healthy environment sustains a productive and healthy community which fosters personal and economic growth. Maintaining funds for environmental justice that go to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Minority Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges, and other organizations is imperative to protecting sustainability and growth of the communities.

The funding of these programs is vital to ensuring that minority groups are not placed at a disadvantage when it comes to the environment and the continued preservation of their homes.

The crisis in Flint, Michigan teaches us how important it is that minority groups and low-income communities are not placed at a disadvantage when it comes to environmental threats and hazards like lead in drinking water or nesting areas for mosquitos carrying the Zika virus.

Through education about the importance of environmental sustainability, we can promote a broader understanding of science and how citizens can improve their surroundings.

Funds that would be awarded to this important cause would increase youth involvement in STEM fields and also promote clean energy, weatherization, clean-up, and asset revitalization. These improvements would provide protection to our most vulnerable groups.

This program provides better access to technology for underserved communities. Together, the Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture have distributed over 5,000 computers to low income populations.

The Community Leaders Institute is another vital component of the Environmental Justice Program. It ensures that those in leadership positions understand what is happening in their communities and can therefore make informed decisions in regards to their communities.

In addition to promoting environmental sustainability, CLJ also brings important factors including public health and economic development into the discussion for community leaders.

The CLJ program has been expanded to better serve Native Americans and Alaska Natives, which is a prime example of how various other minority groups can be assisted as well. Through community education efforts, teachers and students have also benefitted by learning about radiation, radioactive waste management, and other related subjects.

The DOE places interns and volunteers from minority institutions into energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. The DOE also works to increase low income and minority access to STEM fields and help students attain graduate degrees as well as find employment.

Since 2002, the Tribal Energy Program has also funded 175 energy projects amounting to over $41.8 million in order to help tribes invest in renewable sources of energy.

With the continuation of this kind of funding, we can provide clean energy options to our most underserved communities and help improve their environments, which will yield better health outcomes and greater public awareness.

We must help our low income and minority communities and ensure equality for those who are most vulnerable in our country.

I ask my colleagues to join me and support the Jackson Lee Amendment for the Environmental Justice Program. Mr. Chair, I ask my friends and my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 50 OFFERED BY MS. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM OF NEW MEXICO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 50 printed in House Report 115-259.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 297, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $98,000,000) (increased by $98,000,000)."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Chair, my amendment ensures that NNSA has adequate work space to fulfill its national security mission. In my home State of New Mexico, over 1,000 Federal and contract employees at NNSA currently work in a network of old and rapidly deteriorating facilities on Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico.

A portion of the existing facility includes a 60-year-old former military barracks, which creates a number of health, safety, and quality-of-life issues for its employees. These employees are involved in some of our Nation’s most important national security work, including managing our Nation’s nuclear deterrent and reducing global nuclear and radiological threats.

The NNSA administrator, Lieutenant General Klotz, said that: The highly talented employees in Albuquerque are frankly forced to work in facilities that are inadequate to NNSA’s current mission.

Furthermore, because of the age of the buildings, NNSA is forced to spend approximately $6 million every year on maintenance and repairs just to keep them habitable.

In fact, the $40 million worth of deferred maintenance alone on the old buildings is approximately one-fifth of what it would cost to build a new, modern, and reliable facility. So this is a perfect opportunity to save money in the long run.

I strongly support NNSA’s efforts to replace the existing complex with a single new building that will provide...
The current total project cost is $292 million, and I agree with Chairman SIMPSON that we have an obligation to ensure that every single taxpayer dollar for this project is used efficiently and effectively.

I know that the chairman shares my concerns to ensure that NNSA has the infrastructure and resources it needs to fulfill its national security mission now and in the future. That is why I am pleased that he has agreed to work with me to ensure that we are fulfilling our oversight responsibilities while moving the construction of the Albuquerque complex project forward.

With that, I am prepared to withdraw my amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I understand the gentlewoman’s concern and thank her for her advocacy for this project.

The committee has been supportive of this project and has provided $42 million in prior years. The bill includes an additional $18 million to ensure that the project moves forward, and I am happy to work with her as the project advances and understand this amendment will be withdrawn, and I appreciate that.

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

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the chairman’s words and respect his work prior to this and in this current effort to get this space and the facility infrastructure issues addressed. I look forward to working with him on a variety of ideas to make sure that we get this project completed in a timely and effective manner.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 51 OFFERED BY MR. FOSTER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 51 printed in House Report 115-259.

Mr. FOSTER. 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:

Page 297, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert “reduced by $10,000,000” (increased by $10,000,000”).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is a symbolic adjustment to the NNSA budget intended to raise awareness about two areas of emerging national security risk that I believe deserve more attention and investment.

As the only Ph.D. physicist in Congress, I feel a special responsibility to speak out on issues of national security, especially when they concern emerging technological threats that Congress may not be sufficiently aware of.

Any student of the history of warfare is well aware of the dangers of fighting the last war, and for more than 70 years, nuclear weapons have held center stage among threats to our national security and global safety because of their unique capabilities to threaten the existence of mankind. That threat remains, but I fear that the balance of our defensive investments do not adequately reflect emerging threats.

We now appear to be in the process of deciding to spend over $1 trillion to upgrade our nuclear weapons despite the fact that our existing systems are far more sufficient to deter any rational actor. There is no adversary of ours who is not intimidated by our nuclear arsenal but who will suddenly fall in line if we add just one more upgrade or additional weapons manufacturing capability. Put simply, another generation of nuclear weapons will not make us significantly safer.

On the other hand, we live in a world where newly emerging and potentially equally great threats loom: first, bioterror, driven by recent breakthroughs in genetic engineering and off-the-shelf biotechnology; and, second, lethal autonomous weapons systems.

While traditional weapons more easily to our national security and past time to consider a much more rapid increase in investments in defense measures against lethal autonomous weapons systems and against bioterror, because by the time they become a reality, it will be too late to react.

As a leader in technology and innovation, the United States should act now to circumvent any danger these technologies could pose.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I understand the gentleman’s concern on this issue and appreciate the fact that...
he brought it up for discussion here tonight. I would note that the weapons activities accounts provides funding to ensure the reliability of our Nation’s nuclear weapons stockpile. The NNSA does not use funds within this account to counter proliferation of biological weapons, although I understand it is an important issue, and I agree with them we need to address this issue.

However, this amendment increases and decreases the same account and has no effect on this bill overall. I will accept the gentleman’s amendment.

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and to take the time to educate themselves about these emerging threats.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 52 OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 52 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. GARAMENDI. 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:

Page 297, line 21, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by $118,017,000)”.

Page 296, line 11, after the dollar amount insert “reduced by $118,017,000”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

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

Mr. Chairman, I think we ought to be on a roll here, given the last amendment being accepted on a “yes” vote.

This amendment would make America more secure by focusing our very limited tax dollars on programs to keep nuclear material out of the hands of terrorists rather than excess national laboratory infrastructure spending.

According to The Washington Post, the world dodged a bullet when ISIS failed to realize that it had the ingredients for a dirty bomb under its control in Mosul for more than 3 years. This underscores the importance of the need for U.S. leadership and resources to secure nuclear material around the world.

My amendment would provide an increase of $118 million for the Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, DNN, funding. DNN funding includes critical programs such as the nuclear smuggling and detection program, which works with partner countries to improve intelligence, law enforcement, and border security capabilities to detect nuclear material trafficking.

It also supports programs to improve the security of radiological material and to remove it from areas when nuclear materials cannot be adequately and safely secured.

The Make America Secure Appropriations Act makes significant cuts to these programs. Nuclear material out of the hands of terrorists and those who would then use that material to do us harm. For example, there is a 30 percent cut from the nuclear smuggling detection funding, a 79 percent cut from the highly enriched uranium reduction programs, and, overall, a $150 million cut to this program.

At the same time, the underlying legislation would increase by 38 percent, a plus-up above what the administration and is not supported by the Senate. The underlying bill already includes a $39 million increase in infrastructure recapitalization spending and a $71 million increase over the fiscal year 2017-acted level for maintenance and repair facilities.

We can go on and on. We have heard discussions here already about the trillion-dollar-plus expansion of the nuclear weapons programs.

Specifically, this money that I would move out of this particular infrastructure recapitalization account is for the construction of a new facility to build nuclear plutonium pits. These pits are presumably going to be needed for a weapon that is almost certainly not going to be built, which is the interoperable nuclear weapon.

The interoperable weapon is to go on existing and remodeled rockets for the Navy and for the Air Force, neither of whom thinks it is a particularly good idea. So that program, should it ever come to pass, would be delayed, and we could then use this $118 million now to deal with a known problem.

If, in the future, we decide that we need to be able to produce somewhere between 30 and 80 new pits a year, there is time enough to do that. The account that calls for the maintenance of the existing facilities will provide sufficient funds to meet all of the known needs, with the exception of the interoperable nuclear weapon, which, in all probability, is not ever going to be built or needed.

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

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

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, although I am opposed to the amendment, I have to admit that I do enjoy our annual discussion on this.

I oppose this amendment because the bill already shows strong support for the nonproliferation programs of the NNSA. Funding for nuclear defense nonproliferation is $1.83 billion—$76.5 million below fiscal year 2017 and $16.8 million below the budget request.

Within nonproliferation, the bill largely supports programs that are requested, but makes a limited number of realignments within the account to emphasize the importance of nonproliferation research and development activities and to meet international commitments for plutonium disposition.

Our understanding—and this is the important point. Our understanding is that the bill will be down because NNSA will have significant unspent balances in this account due to slow progress on international nonproliferation agreements.

Specifically, the NNSA reported in May that it had approximately $2.2 billion in funds available to carry out its nonproliferation mission, of which over $680 million is left over from prior years. For years, NNSA has struggled to execute funding in its nonproliferation budget because it could not obtain agreement from other nations to do the work as quickly as planned or as we would maybe like to.

This amendment also targets funding from the weapons activities infrastructure recapitalization program. Created in fiscal year 2014 by Congress, the recapitalization program has been highly successful in addressing the aging and deteriorating infrastructure at NNSA sites. Replacing things like telephone poles, leaking fireman valves, roofing, and addressing other basic infrastructure needs are essential to the safe and continued operation of these nuclear security sites.

The budget request proposed to cut the program, and the bill increases funding $118 million above the request to restore that program to the fiscal year 2017 level. We should not divert funding needed to address these urgent infrastructure needs, and I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this amendment.

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to the time remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. GARAMENDI. That might be sufficient, Mr. Chairman, although I doubt I will persuade the worthy chairman with whom we have had this little tussle back and forth.

The fact of the matter is that there are two accounts to deal with this issue of the nuclear sites and the maintenance of them.

One is a maintenance facility, which is plussed-up and sufficient to maintain and upgrade the existing facilities, particularly the plutonium pit, the metalleurgical facility, as well as continue the construction of the highly enriched uranium facilities.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. I yield back.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, although I am opposed to the amendment, I have to admit that I do enjoy our annual discussion on this.

I oppose this amendment because the bill already shows strong support for
Those are already available and that money is in those accounts. It turns out that this money for recapitalization is for the construction of a new pit production facility. The NNSA claims that it needs that facility to build additional pits beyond the 20 to 30 that could be constructed in the refurbished existing pit.

The need for the new pit production facility is specifically for the interoperable nuclear warhead, which is not likely to be needed. And should it be decided to build those pits to be needed, there is plenty of time to build the facility and construct the additional nuclear plutonium pits. The bottom line is that this money is not needed now for that facility.

Could the money be used in the nonproliferation?

It could.

Why were those agreements delayed?

Because of many different reasons, but the fact of the matter is that those agreements had to be delayed to be working. The fact of the matter is that there is a continuing problem of loose nukes and materials around the world, which can cause a problem. The Mosul situation is one of many examples.

The cuts that do take place in smuggling, in research, and the like are serious. We ought to be paying attention.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to the continuation of this discussion, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I would just say that this infrastructure need is not for a new pit facility. They would need to come to us and ask us what they were going to do with funding, and request funding for that. They did not do that. This is for infrastructure needs and upgrades.

But the other thing is that I am as much a nonproliferation activist as anyone in this body. I think it is important work. But the reality is that there is a billion unexpended from previous years, not because funding is not available—the money is there—but they haven’t been able to get agreements with other countries. Unfortunately, you can’t do work in other countries without having agreements with those countries.

So, consequently, we are—I guess you could maybe say—overfunded in nonproliferation if we can’t spend the money on that activity. That is the problem.

Why would we put the money into that when we need the money in infrastructure and building and repairing the buildings and facilities that NNSA has? It just doesn’t make any sense to me. I am sure if this amendment is defeated, we will have this discussion next year, and I hope my colleagues will vote against this.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI). The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 3 of the motion for reconsideration proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 53 OFFERED BY MS. ROSEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 53 printed in House Report 115–259.

Ms. ROSEN. 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:

Page 301, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $30,000,000).

Page 326, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by $30,000,000)."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada.

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment to strip funding for defense nuclear waste disposal and return this money to the Treasury in order to reduce the deficit. The $30 million allocated under the appropriation line being considered here tonight has the potential to be used to expand Yucca Mountain so that it can be used to store defense waste, in addition to civilian nuclear waste.

If there is one issue a majority of Nevadans agree on, it is that we wholeheartedly oppose becoming the Nation’s dumping ground for radioactive waste.

First, for my non-Nevada friends, some history. In 1987, Congress amended the Nuclear Waste Policy Act and directed the Department of Energy to compete with Yucca Mountain, located less than 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas, as the sole site for our Nation’s geological repository. It is a fancy way of choosing Nevada as their nuclear dump.

For over 30 years, the State of Nevada and local communities have rejected this misguided project on safety, public health, and environmental grounds. In fact, we have filed 218 challenges against the Department of Energy’s license application, citing safety and environmental issues in its assessments.

Numerous scientific studies have deemed Yucca Mountain unsafe based on the fact that it sits above an aquifer and is in a seismically active area that just experienced a 4.1 magnitude earthquake.

Any plans involving Yucca Mountain, including the recently introduced Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Acts, are not welcomed by any segment of Nevada’s leadership. Why were those agreements delayed? It could.

Could the money be used in the nonproliferation?

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to the continuation of this discussion, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I would just say that this infrastructure need is not for a new pit facility. They would need to come to us and ask us what they were going to do with funding, and request funding for that. They did not do that. This is for infrastructure needs and upgrades.

But the other thing is that I am as much a nonproliferation activist as anyone in this body. I think it is important work. But the reality is that there is a billion unexpended from previous years, not because funding is not available—the money is there—but they haven’t been able to get agreements with other countries. Unfortunately, you can’t do work in other countries without having agreements with those countries.

So, consequently, we are—I guess you could maybe say—overfunded in nonproliferation if we can’t spend the money on that activity. That is the problem.

Why would we put the money into that when we need the money in infrastructure and building and repairing the buildings and facilities that NNSA has? It just doesn’t make any sense to me. I am sure if this amendment is defeated, we will have this discussion next year, and I hope my colleagues will vote against this.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.
The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 54 OFFERED BY MS. PINGREE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 54 printed in House Report 115–259.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 325, strike lines 17 through 21.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to agreement with Mr. Cicilline, it is now in order to consider amendment No. 54 printed in House Report 115–259.

The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support and as a proud cosponsor of this amendment. I do so in defense of one of our most magnificent natural resources: the Great Lakes.

The Great Lakes contain a fifth of the world’s surface fresh water and are an important asset to our economy and the quality of life of our Nation, and in my district in particular.

The National Ocean Policy also helps protect the vitality of our Great Lakes ecosystem. However, section 505 of this bill will undermine our National Ocean Policy and the ability of agencies to coordinate with States, local governments, and other agencies to protect these beautiful waters. That is why I support striking section 505.

We have a profound obligation to be responsible stewards of the environment and to pass on a clean, healthy, and dynamic environment for future generations.

Mr. Chair, I support the Pingree amendment.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

While there may be instances—and I am sure there are—in which greater coordination would be helpful in ensuring our coastal resources are available for future generations, any such coordination must be done carefully to protect against Federal overreach.

As we saw with the Obama administration’s WOTUS rule to redefine waters of the United States, thorough and strong Congressional oversight is needed to ensure that we protect private property rights.

Unfortunately, the way the Obama administration developed the National Ocean Policy increased the opportunities for Federal overreach. The implementation plan is so broad and so sweeping that it may allow the Federal Government to affect agricultural practices, mining, energy producers, fishermen, and anyone else whose actions may have an impact on the oceans.

The facts is that the previous administration did not work with Congress. This is their National Ocean Policy. They never brought it to Congress.

If you are going to do something this sweeping, you need to have congressional input. They never came to Congress to develop its plan, and they had even refused to provide relevant information to Congress. So we can’t be sure how sweeping it actually could be if left unchecked.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine has 1½ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER).

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Chair, I yield today in strong support and as a proud cosponsor of this amendment. I do so in defense of one of our most magnificent natural resources: the Great Lakes.

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The facts is that the previous administration did not work with Congress. This is their National Ocean Policy. They never brought it to Congress.

If you are going to do something this sweeping, you need to have congressional input. They never came to Congress to develop its plan, and they had even refused to provide relevant information to Congress. So we can’t be sure how sweeping it actually could be if left unchecked.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this amendment.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine has 1½ minutes remaining.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I will just say it is kind of interesting that I don’t disagree with anything Ms. PINGREE is saying. The problem is, there is a process, and Congress needs to be involved.

The last administration did not involve Congress. If it is a good policy, why don’t we just let the administration do it? If you can’t get the votes on the floor, doesn’t that tell you something?

Maybe you need to go and work this out and bring the policy to the floor. But if we are just going to let the administration do that, I don’t know, maybe we will let this administration just enact a tax policy because we have a tough time doing it here in Congress. I don’t know, maybe we will let them enact the healthcare policy because we can’t get together on the floor to see what to do about our healthcare system, so let’s just let the administration do it all.

It is exactly what you are doing with this. You bring an actual ocean policy to the floor, if I think it is a good bill...
and necessary, I will vote for it. I can’t tell you what I will vote for yet because I haven’t seen it.

But just because Congress hasn’t acted doesn’t give the administrative branch of government the right to interject itself and take on the legislative branch of government’s responsibility.

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, with all due respect, there have been frequently moments when the administration overrides the opinion of the Congress or don’t always agree and the administration gets their way. Take the decision the administration made this morning on military policy, which was contrary to the vote we took just this week on the appropriations process.

Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. CARBAJAL).

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Chair, I want to thank all of my colleagues for their leadership and work on this important amendment to strike this harmful rider, to prevent implementation of the National Ocean Policy.

The National Ocean Policy ensures we adopt a science-based, integrated approach to coordinated ocean planning efforts based on best management practices established by the National Ocean Policy.

With support from NOP, the Block Island, the ocean State, has benefited from foreign agriculture. So this policy is extraordinary important.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE).

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I just want to remind people that our ocean planning approach to continue. I thank the gentleman for his eloquently on the importance of National Ocean Policy in supporting the Ocean planning just makes sense, as we have seen in Rhode Island during implementation of our Special Area Management Plan. Instead of haphazard policymaking or turning the ocean into a political football, we brought all stakeholders to the table, commercial and recreational fishermen, energy development companies, conservationists, and other local interests.

The National Ocean Policy builds on this type of collaboration. It is a bottom-up approach, and it empowers local communities who use our oceans.

Throughout the northeast, the Regional Ocean Council allows our States to pool resources and businesses to have a strong voice in decisions that will impact their communities and facilitate coordination with Federal partners.

I am proud to say that the Northeast Regional Ocean Council is the first in the Nation to release a draft ocean plan. My home State of Rhode Island, the ocean State, has benefited greatly from the National Ocean Policy. With help from NOP, the Block Island Wind Farm project was successfully completed and today is capable of powering an estimated 17,000 homes.

At a time when our oceans are facing significant challenges and changes, maintaining coordination and planning is crucial in continuing to strengthen our country’s coastal communities and ocean industries. Allowing Federal agencies to coordinate implementation of over 100 ocean laws and giving State and local governments a voice in the ocean planning process, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and strike this ill-advised provision.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, may I ask how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio has 2 minutes remaining.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, the establishment of a National Ocean Policy was a landmark step for our country. I particularly want to commend SHONDEL WHITEHOUSE from Rhode Island for his leadership on this issue.

Ocean planning just makes sense, as we have seen in Rhode Island during implementation of our Special Area Management Plan. Instead of haphazard policymaking or turning the ocean into a political football, we brought all stakeholders to the table, commercial and recreational fishermen, energy development companies, conservationists, and other local interests.

The National Ocean Policy builds on this type of collaboration. It is a bottom-up approach, and it empowers local communities who use our oceans.

I want to echo the words also of my colleague, the Congressman from Rhode Island (Mr. Cicilline), in support of this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to allow this forward-thinking approach to continue. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman so much for coming to the floor tonight, and I want to thank all of our colleagues who have spoken out so eloquently on the importance of National Ocean Policy in supporting the Pingree, et al. amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Maine will be pursued.

AMENDMENT NO. 55 OFFERED BY MR. KHIUEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 55 printed in House Report 115–259.
Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 326, strike lines 1 through 7.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. KIHUEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada.

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Chairman, my amendment strikes language in the bill that would prohibit the closure of the Yucca Mountain project, which includes the storage of high-level nuclear waste in my district.

As you may know, in 1987, Nevada was targeted as our Nation's nuclear waste dump through the "Screw Nevada" bill. In the 30 years since the bill passed, Congress has wasted $3.7 billion of taxpayer money.

Yucca Mountain sits in a seismically active area less than 100 miles away from Las Vegas, which holds an urban area with over 2 million residents. Mr. Chairman, just last week, there was an earthquake 33 miles away from Yucca Mountain. This place is not safe for our nuclear waste.

Moreover, the city sees tens of thousands of visitors traveling to Las Vegas each and every year, many of whom are your constituents from your districts. In 2016 alone, over 40 million visitors traveled to Las Vegas.

I have grave concerns with the transportation of nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain should this project continue against the will of my constituents. This project will not just impact my constituents. It impacts constituents in 329 congressional districts in 44 different States and Washington, D.C.

Putting a nuclear repository in our backyard means that this high-level nuclear waste must travel through your backyards.

Your constituents will see high-level nuclear waste transported through their communities on rail and truck. A simple car crash or train derailment would leave your constituents at risk and cost our taxpayers more money to clean up the mess.

As it stands, Mr. Chairman, this transportation plan also damages our national security and the ability of the Nevada Test and Training Range, the largest air and ground range in the contiguous United States, to meet and train our servicemembers.

Mr. Chairman, I have been to Yucca Mountain. I have driven through the desert that is home to the bighorn sheep and desert tortoises and ancient petroglyphs and relics of the ancient puebloans, and I would say the most studied piece of land on Earth. There were 52 or 53 National Academy of Sciences studies on Yucca Mountain that have been done. But it will get a careful review from all experts in chemistry, hydrology, geology, seismology, volcanology, and more to ensure that Yucca Mountain, already one of the most studied pieces of land on Earth—

Yucca Mountain threatens the health and safety of Nevadans and Americans from across the country.

Our State, which has no nuclear energy-producing facilities, should not be the dumping ground for the rest of the country's nuclear waste. And the bottom line is this: If any of my colleagues would support this bill to bring Yucca Mountain nuclear waste to our State, then I am sure you support bringing it to your State. I am sure we can find a location in your State, and I would love to work with you on that. I am sure you wouldn't like your neighbors bringing their trash to your backyard. Don't bring it to my backyard either. Don't bring it to my constituents in Nevada.

Mr. Chairman, I urge your support for my amendment. Prevent billions and billions of dollars, taxpayer dollars, being wasted by continuing to pursue the Yucca Mountain project.

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

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

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. WALKER). The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I would tell the gentleman that they have brought a lot of nuclear waste to the State of Idaho. We process it there. It was Rocky Flats that was, they say, cleaned up. It wasn't cleaned up; it was moved to Idaho because we got most of their stuff there. That is kind of what happens.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose this amendment. I think we all understand why my colleagues from Nevada oppose Yucca Mountain, their position on Yucca Mountain; however, I cannot support this amendment. It is time to move forward with the Yucca licensing process.

The previous administration ignored the law. I repeat that—ignored the law. Ignoring our obligation to take responsibility for this spent fuel, and breaking trust with 32 States stopped this process in 2012. I don't think I have to state why that happened. It wasn't because of science or anything else. We all know why it happened. It was because of politics.

The decision has already cost taxpayers $5 billion in claims, and the Department of Energy estimates at least another $24 billion in claims.

This administration has taken swift action to put us back on track, and the budget for this year includes $150 million for Yucca Mountain licensing efforts. Licensing efforts will continue to involve experts in geochemistry, hydrology, geology, seismology, volcanology, and more to ensure that Yucca Mountain, already one of the most studied pieces of land on Earth—

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I would just say in response: Then change the law. The law is that Yucca Mountain is the waste repository for high-level nuclear waste. All we are asking is to continue the licensing process.

As I said during my opening statement, Congress will have a chance to vote on whether to proceed with the construction of this facility. That is the reality. But we have got to get off the dime and start moving and handling this nuclear waste or it is going to cost us billions and billions and billions and billions more. It is time to move forward with the Yucca licensing process.

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), my esteemed colleague.

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Chairman, I want to echo the sentiments of my colleague from Nevada (Mr. KIHUEN) by making one thing perfectly clear: Nevadans are completely against becoming the Nation's nuclear dumping ground. And make no mistake, that is exactly what this appropriations bill does.

Without Mr. KIHUEN's amendment, of which I am proud to be a cosponsor, Congress will tie the hands of this administration by explicitly prohibiting, even considering, closing Yucca Mountain or conducting a technical review before licensing activities begin.

You heard that right. The underlying bill forbids any funds from being used to conduct activities that preclude Yucca Mountain from becoming the Nation's nuclear dumping ground for radioactive waste, no matter the science, no matter the evidence.

And we already have the evidence that bringing America's nuclear waste to Yucca is bad for Nevadans and bad for Americans. We know that Yucca is unsafe for nuclear waste because it is seismically active and sits above an aquifer. And with 70,000 metric tons of radioactive waste through my district and through the heart of Las Vegas, those visitors from all across the country and the world will be exposed.

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.
The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of division D, before the short title, insert the following:

Section 101. The amounts otherwise provided by this Act are revised by reducing the amount made available for “Corps of Engineers-Civil—Investigations”, and increasing the amount made available for the same account, by $3,000,000.

The Acting Chair. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I am going to take this opportunity just to show this picture to my colleagues on the floor of the House and the headline that says: “Urban Flooding in Houston is on the Rise.” I clearly just used the city of Houston by coincidence, but I will tell you that this is what we are facing, really, across America.

The opening sentence of the article says: “Before you can fix a problem, you need to know what’s causing it.” My amendment—as I thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their work on this legislation in doing the best that we can under the circumstances of trying to preserve the balance—speaks to the need for robust funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ investigations account by redirecting $3 million for increased funding for postdisaster watershed assessment studies, like the one that has been contemplated in many areas around the country.

As the Federal agency that collects and studies basic information pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, waterway and ecosystem restoration, and conducts detailed studies, plans, and specifications for river and harbor and flood and storm damage reduction, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plays a critical role in building, maintaining, and expanding the most critical of the Nation’s infrastructure.

When questioning the Army Corps of Engineers about a certain area in my community covering a number of bayous, which we are called The Bayou City—Sims Bayou, Greens Bayou, Braes Bayou, White Oak Bayou, Hunting Bayou, and Clear Creek Bayou—it is the same all over the Nation: the Army Corps of Engineers said they need to study the issue to know how to best resolve it.

My amendment is just that. It is resources to be directed to ensure that we are allowed to study issues so that we can focus the dollars correctly as we attempt to work collaboratively with our local communities.

I add my name to support this amendment, and I make this point: such a study is certainly needed, given the frequency and severity of historic-level flood events in many parts around our Nation and in the area in which I live.

On April 15, 2016, an estimated 240 billion gallons of water fell in the Houston area over a 12-hour period. Let me be very mindful, this is not an exclamation, but simply states that we should have the resources to study these issues so that we can direct monies in the right way.

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

The Acting Chair. The gentlewoman from Texas has 2½ minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me conclude my remarks by indicating that I believe this particular amendment will be helpful in general to, in essence, provide funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ investigations account and ensuring that a postdisaster watershed assessment can result.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Ms. KAPTUR in particular. We have spoken about this issue over a 2-year period. I think the very fact that my particular area can be cited as an example of what happens when you have urban flooding is just an example.

Over the past summer, we know that we have had some serious loss of life when rivers have overflowed or areas where water is and people have been recreating have overflown, and so the idea of saving lives is part of my amendment as well.

Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for shepherding this legislation to the floor and for their commitment to preserving America’s great natural environment and resources so that they can serve and be enjoyed by generations to come.

My amendment speaks to the need for robust funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ investigations account by redirecting $3 million for increased funding for postdisaster watershed assessment studies, like the one that has been contemplated in many areas around the country.

The economic damage caused by the 2015 Houston flood is estimated at $3 billion; the 2016 estimate is being compiled and is estimated to be well above $10 billion.

Mr. Chair, minimizing the risk of flood damage to the Houston and Harris County metropolitan area, the nation’s 4th largest, is a matter of national significance because the region is one of the nation’s major technology, energy, finance, export and medical centers.

1. Port of Houston is the largest bulk port in the world;
2. Texas Medical Center is a world renowned teaching, research and treatment center;
3. Houston is home to the largest conglomeration of foreign bank representation and second only to New York City as home to the most Fortune 500 companies; and
4. The Houston Watershed Assessment study area sits within major Hurricane Evacuation and transportation corridors, especially the Galveston-Houston metropolitan area.

I ask my colleagues to join me and support Jackson Lee Amendment No. 56.

I thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their work in the Houston Regional Watershed Assessment Flood Risk Management Feasibility study.

The text of the amendment is as follows:
Dr. Sam Brody, Professor at A&M Galveston, is doing exactly that. He focuses on urban flooding and says Houston is the poster child.

"The biggest driver of this urban flood problem is human development, it’s the spread of impervious surfaces and I calculated the Houston region increased its pavement by 25 percent over a 30-year period from 1986 to 2010," says Brody. He is also contributing to national research that will help alleviate urban flooding across the U.S.

Stephen Costello, Houston’s Flood Czar, agrees with Brody’s assessment.

Part of the solution he says is investing in innovative infrastructure. "But there has to be a commitment on the part of the community to invest in infrastructure," Costello says. "And that’s what the voters should be looking at saying ‘OK, so let’s make sure we continue to invest in infrastructure,’ and that’s where the public needs to get involved."

Although, we cannot stop flooding from happening, Costello says we need to mitigate the public needs to get involved. "So let’s make sure we continue to invest in innovative infrastructure.

Houston region increased its pavement by 25 percent over a 30-year period from 1986 to 2010."

Although, we cannot stop flooding from happening, Costello says we need to mitigate the public needs to get involved. "So let’s make sure we continue to invest in innovative infrastructure.

Houston region increased its pavement by 25 percent over a 30-year period from 1986 to 2010."

Mrs. BLACK, Messrs. RICE, HOLDING, TIPTON, GUTHRIE, ROSKAM, and EMMER changed their vote from "aye" to "no."

So the amendment was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 416.
AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. GRIFFITTH

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITTH) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment. The Clerk redesignates the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. All Members are reminded we are in a 2-minute vote series. Please stay close to the floor. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—aye 191, noes 236, not voting 6, as follows:

[Aye 191, No 236, Not voting 6]

ARMED FORCES—HOUSE

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. TAKANO

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment. The Clerk redesignates the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. All Members are reminded we are in a 2-minute vote series. Please stay close to the floor. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—aye 191, noes 236, not voting 6, as follows:

[Aye 191, No 236, Not voting 6]
The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. King) 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.

ENACTED BY THE UNANIMOUS CONSENT

The Acting CHAIR, the unfinished business being the demand for a recorded vote, is postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MR. KING OF IOWA

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment was offered by Mr. King of Iowa (No. 23).

The amendment was offered by Mr. King of Iowa (No. 23).
The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. Castor) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote. The Clerk will redesignate the amendment. The Clerk redesignates the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.
The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded. A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 203, noes 224, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 422]

AYES—203

Adams (GA)
Aguilar
Amar
Amaro
Barragan
Bass
Bea
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blum
Blumenauer
Blunt (DC)
Bonomacci
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Ca`rdenas
Carbajal
Bustos
Brady (PA)
Blumenauer
Bustos
Brady (PA)

Not voting 6, as follows:

Costello (PA)

Cummings
Jeffries
Scalise

NOT VOTING—6

Costello (PA)

Hollsworth
Napolitano

Cummings
Jeffries
Scalise

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

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

AMENDMENT NO. 44 OFFERED BY MS. ESTY OF CONNECTICUT

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. Esty) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 203, noes 224, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 422]

AYES—203

Adams (GA)
Aguilar
Amar
Amaro
Barragan
Bass
Bea
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blum
Blumenauer
Blunt (DC)
Bonomacci
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Ca`rdenas
Carbajal
Bustos
Brady (PA)
Blumenauer
Bustos
Brady (PA)

Not voting 6, as follows:

Costello (PA)

Hollsworth
Napolitano

Cummings
Jeffries
Scalise

NOT VOTING—6

Costello (PA)

Hollsworth
Napolitano

Cummings
Jeffries
Scalise

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

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

AMENDMENT NO. 44 OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. Garamendi) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

Barr
Barta
Bergman
Griffith
Bilirakis
Guthrie
Bishop (MO)
Handel
Black
Harper
Bishop (UT)

NOT VOTING—6

Costello (PA)

Hollsworth
Napolitano

Cummings
Jeffries
Scalise

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

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

AMENDMENT NO. 44 OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. Garamendi) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

Barr
Barta
Bergman
Griffith
Bilirakis
Guthrie
Bishop (MO)
Handel
Black
Harper
Bishop (UT)

NOT VOTING—6

Costello (PA)

Hollsworth
Napolitano

Cummings
Jeffries
Scalise

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

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

AMENDMENT NO. 44 OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. Garamendi) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.
July 26, 2017

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded. A recorded vote was ordered. The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 192, noes 235, not voting 6, as follows:

(Roll No. 424) AYES—192

Bishop (GA) Aguilar
Bilirakis (FL) Banks (IN) Bacon
Babin (TX) Evans
Espaillat (NY) Eshoo
Dingell (MI) DeSaulnier
DeLauro (CT) Delaney
Clyburn (SC) Clapp
Carbajal (CA) Cisneros
Butterfield (NC) Bustos
Burgess (TX) Budd
Buchanan (FL) Brooks (AL)
Brooks (GA) Brat
Blum (GA) Brinquard

NOES—247

Costello (PA) Cummings (NJ)

Amash (MI) Amodei (NV) Arrington (TN)
Babin (TX) Bacon (GA) Banks (IN)
Bartella (MI) Bass (NY) Bergman (MI)
Bilirakis (FL) Bishop (MI) Bikarsik (IN)
Black (TX) Carter (GA) Carter (TX)

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded. A recorded vote was ordered. The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 192, noes 235, not voting 6, as follows:

(Roll No. 423) AYES—192

Adams (CT) Aguilar
Amash (MI) Arrington (TX)
Barragan (CA) Basch (IN)
Beatty (OH) Bendell (MI)
Beyer (DC) Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer (OR) Blunt Rochester (NY)
Bonamici (OR) Boyle, Brendan (NY)
Brady (PA) Brown (MD)
Browne (CA) Budish (OH)
Bustos (IL) Burgess (TX)
Capuano (MA) Bilirakis (FL)
Carroll (FL) Carter (IL)
Cardenas (CA) Carter (MO)
Carson (IN) Castor (FL)
Catwright (OH) Castoro (TX)
Chatfield (OH) Cicilline (RI)
Clarke (NY) Clay (NY)
Cleaver (UT) Clyburn (SC)
Clyburn (SC) Cole (NY)
Collins (NY) Collins (GA)
Collins (GA) Cole (OH)
Collins (CA) Connolly (PA)
Conyers (MI) Correa (TX)
Corney (OH) Costa (CA)
Coutte (CA) Courtney (NY)
Crawley (CA) Cummings (GA)
Cuccinelli (VA) Culver (IN)
DeFazio (NY) DeLauro (CT)
DeLaunay (MN) DelBene (WA)
DelBene (WA) Demings (FL)
DelBene (WA) Demings (FL)
DelBene (WA) Dennis (MI)
Deutche (DC) Dingell (MI)
Doggelt (MI) Doyle, Michael F
Doyle, Michael F (NY) Edwards (RI)
Ehlers (MI) Elijah (MD)
Ellison (MN) Engel (NY)
Eshoo (NC) Espelkamp (FL)
Ezzy (CT) Evans (NJ)
Foster (MI) Foster (MI)

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded. A recorded vote was ordered. The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 192, noes 235, not voting 6, as follows:

(Roll No. 424) AYES—192

Adams (NY) Aguilar
Aguilar (CA) Amash (MI)
Arrington (TX) Barragan (CA)
Bass (NY) Basch (IN)
Beatty (OH) Bendell (MI)
Beyer (DC) Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer (OR) Blunt Rochester (NY)
Bonamici (OR) Boyle, Brendan (NY)
Brady (PA) Brown (MD)
Browne (CA) Budish (OH)
Bustos (IL) Burgess (TX)
Capuano (MA) Bilirakis (FL)
Carroll (FL) Carter (IL)
Cardenas (CA) Carter (MO)
Carson (IN) Castor (FL)
Catwright (OH) Castoro (TX)
Chatfield (OH) Cicilline (RI)
Clarke (NY) Clay (NY)
Cleaver (UT) Clyburn (SC)
Clyburn (SC) Cole (NY)
Collins (NY) Collins (GA)
Collins (GA) Cole (OH)
Collins (CA) Connolly (PA)
Conyers (MI) Correa (TX)
Corney (OH) Costa (CA)
Coutte (CA) Courtney (NY)
Crawley (CA) Cummings (GA)
Cuccinelli (VA) Culver (IN)
DeFazio (NY) DeLauro (CT)
DeLaunay (MN) DelBene (WA)
DelBene (WA) Demings (FL)
DelBene (WA) Dennis (MI)
Deutche (DC) Dingell (MI)
Doggelt (MI) Doyle, Michael F
Doyle, Michael F (NY) Edwards (RI)
Ehlers (MI) Elijah (MD)
Ellison (MN) Engel (NY)
Eshoo (NC) Espelkamp (FL)
Ezzy (CT) Evans (NJ)
Foster (MI) Foster (MI)

AnnounceMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR. There is 1 minute remaining.

Ms. KAPTUR changed her vote from "no" to "aye." So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 54 OFFERED BY MS. PINOGER

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGOGER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevail on the voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment. The Clerk redesignated the amendment.
Curbelo (FL)  Joyce (OH)  Ruby
Davidson  Joyce (OH)  Roe (TN)
Davis, Rodney  Kelly (MS)  Rogers (AL)
Denham  Kelly (MS)  Rogers (TX)
Dent  King (IA)  Rohrabacher
DeSantis  King (NY)  Roskam
DesJarlais  Kissinger  Rooney, Frances
Dias-Balart  Knight  Rooney, Thomas
Donovan  Kustoff (TN)  Ros-Lehtinen
Duffy  LaHood  Roskam
Duncan (SC)  Lamalfa  Rosenthal
Duncan (TN)  Lamborn  Rothfus
Emmer  Lance  Rouzer
Estrada (KS)  Latta  Royce (CA)
Fahrenholz  Loefflend  Russell
Faso  LoBiondo  Sanborn
Ferguson  Long  Schewelkert
Fleischmann  Love  Scott, Austin
Fox  Locas  Sessions
Frank's (AZ)  Lucas  Sessions
Frelinghuysen  Luetkemeyer  Shuster
Gaetz  Marchant  Shimkus
Gallagher  Massie  Smitherman
Garrett  Mast  Smith (NE)
Gianforte  McCarthy  Smith (TX)
Gibbs  Mast  Smith (WV)
Gohmert  McCarthey  Smucker
Gonzalez (LA)  Mcaleer  Smith (WV)
Goodlatte  McCleen  Stefanik
Goossen  McGovern  Stewart
Gowdy  McMorris  Taylor
Granger  McMorris Rodgers  Tenney
Graves (GA)  McMorris Rodgers  Thompson (PA)
Graves (LA)  McMorris Rodgers  Thompson (PA)
Graves (MO)  Meadows  Thornberry
Griffin  Meehan  Tirrell
Grothman  Mueser  Tipton
Gutierrez  Mitchell  Trott
Handel  Moolenaar  Turner
Habler  Moore  Upson
Harrington  Moore  Valley
Harrington Newhouse  Murphy (PA)  Wagner
Herrera Beutler  Norcross  Walberg
Hice, Jody B.  Noah  Walorski
Hilgers (LA)  Nunes  Walters, Mimi
Hill  Olson  Walter, Tim
Holding  Palazzo  Web FM
Hudson Palmer  Palazzo  Web FM
Huizenga  Paulsen  Wendt
Hultgren  Pearce  Werrell
Hunter  Perry  Williams
Hurd  Peterson  Wilson (SC)
Huskins  Pittenger  Wittman
Inhofe  Poe (TX)  Womack
Jenkins (KS)  Posey  Woolall
Jenkins (WV)  Posey  Woolall
Johnson (OH)  Reed  Yoder
Johnson, Sam  Reichert  Young (AK)
Jones  Renacci  Young (OH)
Jordan  Rice (SC)  Zeldin

NOT VOTING—6
Costello (PA)  Hollingsworth  Napolitano
Cummins  Jeffries  Scalise

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

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

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 56 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Ms. Jackson Lee) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment. The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded. A recorded vote was ordered.
the amount made available for the same account, by $100,000,000.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I again thank the chairman and the ranking member of the subcommittee for this very critical work.

My amendment speaks to the need for robust funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ construction account by redirecting $100 million for increased funding for critical construction projects like those projects that are current and future projects throughout the Nation.

As a Federal agency that collects and studies basic information pertaining to river and harbor, and flood and storm damage reduction, it is important that the Army Corps of Engineers and the construction unit have the funding to focus its resources around the Nation again.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plays a critical role in the building, maintaining, and expanding of the most critical of the Nation’s infrastructures.

The Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee has an important responsibility, and it is to ensure the safety of the Nation’s waterways.

Some of these waterways are in and around many of our States, particularly in the State of Texas. Not only do we have a concept of bayous, but, for example, we are surrounded in many parts by the Gulf. We have an enormous amount of water in rivers, and the Army Corps of Engineers is particularly important as it relates to flooding.

But we have seen flooding across America. So this particular amendment is to ensure that resources are there as Americans face unusual flooding that has been occurring over the last decades.

I will give you an example. During May 2015, in the Houston flood, 3,015 homes were flooded and eight people died. During the April 2016 Houston flood, 4,000 homes were flooded and eight deaths were recorded. The economic damage caused by the 2015 Houston flood is estimated at $3 billion. I urge my colleagues to know that this amendment is not for a region or an area. It is really to help the Nation.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to conclude by simply thanking the committee and staff and, again, reminding individuals that we can save lives through the work of the Army Corps of Engineers in stopping flooding that impacts not only my region of the country, but really across the country.

I conclude with one final statement: We are entering hurricane season. This will be a very important amendment as we enter hurricane season all over the Nation.

Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KUPRITZ for shepherding this legislation to the floor and for their commitment to preserving America’s great natural environment and resources so that they can serve and be enjoyed by generations to come.

My amendment speaks to the need for robust funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers “Construction” account by redirecting $100 million for increased funding for critical construction projects, like those current and future projects proposed for the Houston/Harris County metropolitan area.

As the federal agency that collects and studies basic information pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and conducts detailed studies, plans, and specifications for river and harbor, and flood and storm damage reduction, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer plays a critical role in the building, maintaining, and expanding the most critical of the nation’s infrastructure.

We understand this very well in my home state of Texas and the Eighteenth Congressional District that I represent.

The Army Corps of Engineers has been working with the Harris County Flood Control District since 1937 to reduce the risk of flooding within Harris County.

Current projects include 6 federal flood risk management projects:

1. Sims Bayou
2. Greens Bayou
3. Brays Bayou
4. White Oak Bayou
5. Hunting Bayou, and
6. Clear Creek.

In addition to these ongoing projects, the Army Corps of Engineers operates and maintains the Addicks and Barker (AAB) Detention Dams in northwest Harris County. Such a study is certainly needed given the frequency and severity of historic-level flood events in recent years in and around the Houston metropolitan area, it is clear that much more needs to be done to minimize the vulnerability of the nation’s 4th largest metropolitan area and economic engine from the flood damage.

On April 15, 2016, an estimated 240 billion gallons of water fell in the Houston area over a 12 hour period, which resulted in several areas exceeding the 100 to 500 year flood event record.

The areas that experienced these historic rain falls were west of I–45, north of I–10, and Greens Bayou.

Additionally, an estimated 140 billion gallons of water fell over the Cypress Creek, Spring Creek, and Addicks watershed in just 14 hours.

Mr. Chair, during the May 2015 Houston flood, 3,015 homes were flooded and 8 persons died, during the April 2016 Houston flood, 4,000 homes were flooded and 8 deaths recorded.

The economic damage caused by the 2015 Houston flood is estimated at $3 billion; the 2016 estimate is being compiled and is estimated to be well above $2 billion.

Mr. Chair, minimizing the risk of flood damage to the Houston and Harris County metropolitan area, the nation’s 4th largest, is a matter of national significance because the region is one of the nation’s major technology, energy, finance, export and medical centers.

1. Port of Houston is the largest bulk port in the world;
2. Texas Medical Center is a world renowned teaching, research and treatment center;
3. Houston is home to the largest conglomeration of foreign bank representation and second only to New York City as home to the most Fortune 500 companies; and
4. The Houston Watershed Assessment study area sits within major Hurricane Evacuation arteries for the larger Galveston Gulf Coast region.

I ask my colleagues to join me and support Jackson Lee Amendment No. 57.

I thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KUPRITZ for their work in shepherding this bill to the floor.

Mr. Chairman, I ask support for the Jackson Lee amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 57 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 58 printed in House Report 115-239.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. 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 division D (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 7. None of the funds made available by this Act for “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Science” may be used in contravention of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is a very simple amendment that promotes STEM education, which is really a vital part of the future of this Nation.

In particular, my amendment says: ‘‘None of the funds made available by this act for “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Science” may be used in contravention of the Department of Energy Organization Act.’’

This amendment was approved and adopted just in the last session. Twenty years ago, on February 11, we were directed to identify and address the disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their actions on minority and low-income populations.

The Department of Energy ceased to provide equal access in these opportunities for underrepresented groups in STEM, including minorities, Native Americans, and women.

Mr. Chairman, women and minorities make up 70 percent of college students, but only 45 percent of undergraduates
are STEM degree holders. This large pool of untapped talent is a great potential source of STEM professional, but it also deprives the United States of its best minds to be able to help it in the 21st century.

As the Nation’s demographics are shifting and now more children under the age of 1 are minorities, it is critical that we close the gap in the number of minorities who seek system opportunities.

Mr. Chairman, there are still a great many scientific riddles left to be solved. And perhaps one of these days, a minority engineer or biologist will come up with some of the solutions.

As many have done in the past, the larger point is that we need more STEM educators and more minorities to qualify them. My amendment turns our important to the importance of energy and science education programs funded in part by this bill, and will help to ensure that members of underrepresented communities are not placed at a disadvantage when it comes to environmental sustainability, preservation, and health.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, let me take note of some of the colleagues that I have had the privilege of being neighbors to. NASA’s Johnson Space Center is, if I might say, one of the neighbors of my community, great respect for the astronauts; Major Bolden, who serves as head of NASA; and Mae Jemison is my neighbor, the first African-American woman who went into space. I want more of those individuals coming from our Nation’s schools, and I ask my colleagues to support this amendment that will encourage those in low-income communities and minorities, Native Americans, and others to join in and support the opportunities for STEM education.

Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member KAPTUR for shepherding this legislation to the floor and for their commitment to preserving America’s great natural environment and resources so that they can serve and be enjoyed by generations to come.

Jackson Lee Amendment No. 58 simply provides that:

“No of the funds made available by this Act for Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Science be used in contravention of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.).”

The amendment was approved and adopted in identical form on April 29, 2015, during the 114th Congress as an amendment to H.R. 2028, the Energy and Water Resources Appropriations Act of 2016.

Mr. Chair, twenty years ago, on February 11, 1998, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, directing federal agencies to identify and address the disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their actions on minority and low-income populations.

The Department of Energy seeks to provide equal access in these opportunities for underrepresented groups in STEM, including minorities, Native Americans, and women.

Mr. Chair, women and minorities make up 70 percent of college students, but only 45 percent of undergraduate STEM degree holders.

This large pool of untapped talent is a great potential source of STEM professionals.

As the demographics are shifting and now most children under the age of one are minorities, it is critical that we close the gap in the number of minorities who seek STEM opportunities.

I encourage Energy Secretary Perry to support the opportunities for STEM educators and more minorities to qualify for them.

The energy and science education programs funded in part by this bill will help ensure that members of underrepresented communities are not placed at a disadvantage when it comes to environmental sustainability, preservation, and health.

Through education about the importance of environmental sustainability, we can promote a broader understanding of science and how citizens can improve their surroundings.

Through community education efforts, teachers and students have also benefitted by learning about radiation, radioactive waste management, and other related subjects.

The Department of Energy places interns and volunteers from minority institutions into energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.

The DOE also works to increase low income and minority access to STEM fields and help students attain graduate degrees as well as find employment.

With the continuation of this kind of funding, we can increase diversity, provide clean energy options to our most underserved communities, and help improve their environments, which will yield better health outcomes and greater public awareness.

But most importantly businesses will have more consumers to whom they may engage in related commercial activities.

My amendment will help ensure that underrepresented communities are able to participate and contribute equitably in the energy and scientific future.

I ask my colleagues to join me and support Jackson Lee Amendment No. 58.

Mr. Chair, I ask for support of the Jackson Lee Amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 59 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR
The Acting CHAIR. The amendment was in order to consider amendment No. 59 printed in House Report 115–259. 

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment by the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of division D (before the short title), insert the following:

SNC. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to prepare, promulgate or enforce any guidance that references or relies on the analysis contained in—


(3) ‘‘Revised Draft Guidance for Federal Departments and Agencies on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and the Effects of Climate Change in NEPA Reviews’’, published by the Council on Environmental Quality on December 24, 2014 (79 Fed. Reg. 77801);


The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer a common sense amendment that will protect our jobs and the economy by prohibiting funds from being used to implement the Obama administration’s flawed Social Cost of Carbon, or SCC, valuation. This job-killing and unlawful guidance sneakily attempts to pave the way for cap-and-trade-like mandates.

Congress and the American people have repeatedly rejected cap-and-trade proposals. Knowing that he could not lawfully enact a cap-and-trade plan, President Obama attempted to circumvent Congress by playing loose and fast with the Clean Air Act to unilaterally implement this unlawful new requirement under the guise of guidance.

The Obama administration continuously used the SCC valuation models, which can be easily manipulated, to try and justify new job-killing regulations.

Although President Trump issued an executive order in March to disband the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases, Federal
agencies continue to work on the SCC valuation. My amendment is necessary to strengthen the intent of President Trump’s executive order while also ensuring that it is Congress, not the executive branch, which sets tax and environmental policy.

The committee wisely issued guidance in the bill report to delay the promulgation of SCC regulations until a new working group is convened. My amendment explicitly prohibits this from being used to implement the deeply flawed Social Cost of Carbon guidance in the bill text.

The House has a clear, consistent, and strong record of opposition to the Social Cost of Carbon. My colleagues voted in favor of my amendment in FY17 appropriations by a clear majority of 230–188.

In fact, the House has decisively voted 10 times to block, defund, or oppose the Social Cost of Carbon since 2013. My amendment ensures this Chamber’s position remains consistent and crystal clear in FY18.

Roger Martella, a self-described life-long environmentalist and career environmental lawyer, testified at the May 2015 Natural Resources Committee hearing on the revised SCC guidance and the flaws associated with the Social Cost of Carbon model, stating that the “Social Cost of Carbon” estimates suffer from a number of significant flaws that should exclude them from the NEPA process.”

Amongst these flaws are, one, that the “projected costs of carbon emissions can be manipulated by changing key parameters such as timeframes, discount rates, and other values that have no relation to a given project undergoing review.”

Two, “OMB and the other Federal agencies developed the draft Social Cost of Carbon estimates without any known or opportunity for public comment during the development process.”

Three, “OMB’s draft Social Cost of Carbon estimates are based primarily on global rather than domestic costs and benefits.”

Four, “there is still considerable uncertainty in many of the assumptions and data elements used to create the draft Social Cost of Carbon estimates, such as the damage functions and modeled time horizons.”

Mr. Martella’s testimony was spot on. Congress, not Washington bureaucrats, should dictate our country’s climate change policy. The sweeping and costly changes that the Social Cost of Carbon metric would impose are not only misguided and unwise, they are also based on fundamentally flawed policies that sidestepped Congress, did not go through the normal regulatory process, and received no public comment.

Worse yet, the model utilized to predict the Social Cost of Carbon can be easily manipulated to arrive at the desired outcome. Regardless of one’s positions on climate change, my colleagues surely must respect the constitutional role of the legislative branch and oppose bureaucratic efforts to circumvent Congress to impose an extremist environmental agenda that is not based on best available science.

Congress must provide certainty to business and consumers that the costly and scientifically bankrupt Social Cost of Carbon valuation will not creep its way into our regulatory process. My amendment provides that certainty.

Over the last 2 years, this effort has received support from the American Energy Alliance, Americans for Limited Government, Americans for Tax Reform, Arch Coal, Competitive Enterprise Institute, the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste, FreedomWorks, National Mining Association, the National Taxpayers Union, and Taxpayers Protection Alliance.

Both parties can agree that our Nation should be spending taxpayer dollars on goods manufactured here at home, not overseas, whenever we can. Doing so not only supports American jobs in our communities but also reinforces our national security. Even President Trump called for strengthening enforcing laws that promote American industry and American workers. So I hope my colleagues from both sides of the aisle can come together on this issue.

Particularly in these uncertain times, it is imperative that we protect American production capabilities by supporting U.S. manufacturers.

Every year since 1991, Congress has included a provision in the Department of Defense Appropriations bill to require that military agencies purchase anchor chain that is not subject to the existing language in this bill to better protect the critical production capability, support our manufacturing industry, and put American workers first.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.
Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I recognize the underlying bill has language on this issue, but I understand that the requirement may not be as comprehensive as my colleague supports. I am concerned that the amendment before us may have unintended consequences. If my colleague would withdraw the amendment today, I will commit to working together as this bill moves through the legislative process to see if we can address her concerns in a manner acceptable to everyone. Otherwise, I will have to oppose the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the intent of the gentlewoman's amendment. I am very glad to hear what the gentlewoman is saying. She is trying to do everything she can to support American-made products and particularly American-made anchor chain. I would be willing to work with the chairman and the gentlewoman on the process goes forward to ensure we purchase American-made products. I just wanted to express that support. I thank the gentleman for his offer.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, if the gentlewoman is willing to withdraw the amendment, we will work together to see if we can solve this.

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

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's willingness to work with me on this important issue and also Representative KAPTUR for her support.

Our Nation can't afford to lose its critical production capability. We shouldn't write foreign workers and companies out of the game and leave American workers behind, so I look forward to working with the gentleman and the gentlewoman.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 61 OFFERED BY MR. BURGESS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 61 printed in House Report 115-259.

Mr. BURGESS. 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 division D (before the short title) insert the following new section:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this division may be used—

(1) to implement or enforce section 430.32(x) of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations; or

(2) to implement or enforce the standards established by the tables contained in section 3251(i)(1)(B) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(i)(1)(B)) with respect to BPAR incandescent reflector lamps, BR incandescent reflector lamps, and ER incandescent reflector lamps.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to prevent extension of the free market by the Federal Government.

Since its passage in 2007 of the Energy Independence and Security Act, I have heard from virtually tens of thousands of constituents about the language in that act and how it will take away consumer choice when constituents are deciding which lightbulbs they will use in their homes. Mr. Chairman, they are right.

Mr. Chairman, in the interest of time, I want to point out this exact amendment was accepted for the past 6 years by the House. Three of those years it was accepted by voice vote. It was included in the annual appropriations legislation signed into law by President Obama every year since its first inclusion in 2011, and has been a priority of the Republican Conference since its adoption into law. It allows consumers to continue to have a choice and to have a say about what type of light bulb they will put into their homes. Congress should fight to preserve the free market. It is common sense.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, with all due respect I have for Congressman BURGESS, I oppose this damaging rider which would block the Department of Energy from implementing or enforcing commonsense energy efficiency standards for light bulbs.

This rider was a bad idea when it was first offered 7 years ago, and it is even more unsupportable now. Why do I say that? Because every claim made by proponents of the rider have been proven wrong.

Number one, we have been told, including by Dr. BURGESS, that the energy efficiency standards would ban incandescent light bulbs. That is simply false. You can go to the store today and see shelves of modern energy efficient incandescent light bulbs that meet the standard, and they are the same as the old bulbs except they last longer, use less electricity, and save consumers money.

Then we heard for years that the energy efficiency standards restrict consumer choice.

If you have shopped for light bulbs lately, which I have, you know that isn't true. In fact, modern incandescent bulbs, compact fluorescent light bulbs, and LEDs of every shape, size, and color are now available.

Consumers have never had more choice, and the efficiency standard spurred innovation that dramatically expanded options for consumers. I am amazed how many shelves light bulbs now occupy in the stores.

Critics of the efficiency standards claim that they would cost consumers money. In fact, the opposite is true. Since the first inclusion in 2007, the average American family will save about $100 per year. That is pretty good. That is 12.5 billion in savings for consumers and businesses nationwide every year. That is $12.5 billion. But this rider threatens those savings. That is why consumer groups have consistently opposed this rider.

Here is the reality. The 2007 consensus energy efficiency standards for light bulbs were enacted with bipartisan support and continue to enjoy overwhelming industry support. U.S. manufacturers are already meeting the efficiency standards.

The effect of the rider is to allow foreign manufacturers to sell old, inefficient light bulbs in the United States that don't meet the efficiency standards. That is unfair to domestic manufacturers who have invested millions of dollars in U.S. plants to make efficient bulbs that meet the standards.

Why on Earth would we want to pass a rider that favors foreign manufacturers who ignore our laws and penalize U.S. manufacturers who are following our laws?

But it gets even worse. The mere existence of this rider poses and additional threat to U.S. manufacturing. The bipartisan 2007 Energy bill required the Department of Energy to establish updated light bulb efficiency standards by January 1 of this year. It also provided that, if final updated standards are not issued by then, a more stringent backstop standard of 45 lumens per watt automatically takes effect, and incandescent light bulbs currently cannot meet this backstop standard.

Well, we are well into 2017, and the Burgess light bulb rider has remained on the books. So, earlier this year, the Department of Energy had to go forward with finalizing the 45-lumens-per-watt backstop standard.

Moving this rider year after year is ultimately what blocked the Department of Energy from issuing the required efficiency standards in time to avoid such stringent measures. Ironically, it is this rider that would effectively ban the incandescent light bulb in 2020.

The Burgess rider directly threatens existing light bulb manufacturing jobs in the United States. It would stifle innovation and punish companies that have invested in domestic manufacturing. This rider aims to reverse years of technological progress, only to kill jobs, increase electricity bills for our consumers, and worsen pollution.
It is time to choose common sense over rigid ideology. It is time to listen to the manufacturing companies, consumer groups, and efficiency advocates who all agree that this rider is harmful.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all Members to vote "no" on the Burgess lightbulb rider, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chairman, I will disagree on the economics that were just presented. But apart from the economic lightbulb mandate, that is, in fact, only part of the story.

With the extreme expansion of Federal powers undertaken in the last administration, when the Democrats were in charge of Congress for 4 years, Americans have just now begun to see how far the Constitution's Commerce Clause has been manipulated from its original intent. The lightbulb mandate is a perfect example of this manipulation.

The Commerce Clause was intended by our Founding Fathers to be a limitation on Federal authority, not a catchall in order to allow for any topic to be regulated by Washington. Indeed, it is clear that the Founding Fathers never intended for this clause to be used to allow the Federal Government to regulate and pass mandates on consumer products that do not pose a risk to either human health or safety.

Mr. Chairman, in December of 2007, when this bill was first passed, the candelabra was observed on television one Sunday morning that it is the job of the Federal Government to defend the borders and deliver the mail. But instead of keeping up with those two tasks, we instead decided to ban the incandescent bulb. It was wrong in 2007. It is wrong in 2017.

Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 62 OFFERED BY MRS. BLACKBURN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 62 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. 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 division D (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. . Each amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act that is not required to be appropriated or otherwise made available by a provision of law is hereby reduced by 1 percent.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, first of all, I want to begin by thanking the committee for their hard work on this appropriations bill.

Every year, I come to this floor through the appropriations process to present amendments calling for 1 percent across-the-board cuts. For many years I have come down here to talk about how the spending continues to increase. Indeed, our budget does increase. But I have to tell you, the chairman and his team have done an incredible job this year.

The outlays that we see in this bill this year are $209 million—think about that—less than the budget authority from last year. That is significant, and it should be recognized and should be praised, because that is the type of work that we need to see.

Now, I do continue to present the 1 percent across-the-board amendment because we are facing a time in our Nation where 1 percent makes a difference, just as we are seeing from the good work that they have done.

Passing this amendment for the 1 percent across-the-board spending reduction would save us an additional $376 million. It is important to do because the Nation is facing $20 trillion in debt. Because of that, we have to ask ourselves: Is it important to spend some of the money that is being spent on programs that we see taking place in the Department of Energy?

It causes us to really talk about priorities, where we should spend those precious dollars that are not Federal dollars. They are taxpayer dollars that are coming out of the pockets of hardworking men and women.

Indeed, we have, many times, quoted Admiral Mullins' comments from July 6, 2010, that the greatest threat to our Nation is our Nation’s debt. Because of that, I recognize and applaud the work that has been done, but I encourage support for my amendment and the continued honing and prioritizing of what takes the taxpayer money that is spent by this body.

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

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

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, let me first say what the Appropriations Committee has done, but I encourage support for my amendment and the continued honing and prioritizing of what takes the taxpayer money that is spent by this body.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chairman, I will not yield the balance of my time.

We then have to look at the infrastructure of this Nation and the fact that we have deteriorating infrastructure, and Congress has told us that each year we have to meet what is called the WRDA target. We have to spend with the Army Corps of Engineers, with the harbors, dams, and inland waterways and restore those things, because it is very important to our commerce and something the Congress supports greatly.

So when we have had to increase the Army Corps of Engineers funding over what was spent last year and then we have had to increase weapons activity, that means the Department of Energy has been significantly reduced over what they were last year.

We have had to make some very hard choices. We have cut the EERE, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, program in half from $2 billion to $1 billion, roughly.

We have had to eliminate the ARPA-E program, a program that I happen to support, but we just don't have the money for it.

We have had to eliminate the loan guarantee program, a program that, again, I support, but we just don't have the money for it.

So we have made some significant reductions while prioritizing basic science research and those types of activities within the Department of Energy. But I think we have done a good job, given a pretty skinny budget. We have made tough choices. That is okay. That is what we do all the time in the Appropriations Committee.

The reality is, if we are ever going to balance this budget, if anybody looks at the numbers, right now we are spending about 70 percent of our total Federal budget on mandatory programs. We have been reducing discretionary spending over the years. As a portion of the total budget, it has gone down every year.

If we don't get a hold of mandatory spending—Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and interest on the debt—within 10 years we will have enough money for our mandatory programs and defense, nothing else—zero.

We are not going to balance this budget by reducing discretionary spending. Keeping control of it, you bet, that is what we have been doing. That is what the Appropriations Committee has been doing since 2010, or earlier. We have actually been reducing spending. It is very important that we do that. But we have to get a hold of mandatory spending if we are going to balance the budget.

I appreciate what the gentlewoman is trying to do. I agree with her, we need to balance this budget. We need to balance this budget. Unfortunately, this is not the way to do it.

So I have to oppose this amendment and hope my colleagues would oppose it also.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.
Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I will tell you every comment that Mr. SIMPSON made about the mandatory spending is something that I agree with. Yes, we have to do that. But just as we in Congress have reduced our Legislative Branch budget by about 20 percent over the last few years, and just as our Appropriations Committee has done a wonderful job of pulling back on the spending that is done to discretionary, we need to give that same challenge to the bureaucracy, to those top-and-fend Federal employees and challenge them to go save a penny on a dollar out of what they are appropriated. Find a way to yield savings to the work that they do and help us with this process to rein in spending.

Mr. Chairman. I encourage support of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 5 Offered by Mr. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5, printed in House Report 115-239.

Mr. PERRY. 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 division D (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement or enforce the final rule published by the Secretary of Energy entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Central Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps” published on July 5, 2017 (82 Fed. Reg. 1293).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

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

Mr. Chairman, first of all, I want to thank the Appropriations Committee for the extraordinary work they have done in a very limited amount of time. This amendment would prohibit the use of funds to implement or enforce the final rule published by the former Secretary of Energy, entitled: “Test Procedures for Central Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps.”

Mr. Chairman, this is simply an example of too much Washington, too much government. I am sure it was well-intended, but I am not sure if the good idea fairies in Washington really realized fully what they did.

Certainly we want to have test standards and so forth, but the one-size-fits-all approach that comes out of Washington misses some folks and can cause some irreparable damage to businesses all around the country. And all around the country there are small manufacturers that are trying to build some air-conditioners. In particular, there is one in the district that I represent that builds custom-made air-conditioners and heat pumps for skyscrapers and high-rise buildings.

If I can picture the scene, the original units are put in when the buildings are being constructed. So there are cranes available, there are openings in the walls and in the structure, and they just move the stuff in, and then they close it all up.

In 10, 20, 30 years later when they go to replace it, well, the walls are in, the windows are in, the people are in, the offices are in. There is no crane available, and they have to piece this thing together through the elevator and into the building. This company, and like other ones around the country, make custom-made ones, each one for a specific application—each one.

But the Department of Energy, and this rule in particular, says that this company must test each model that they make for these efficiency standards—each one—an arduous test taking months, if not years, in documentation for one application.

Again, I am sure the Department of Energy was well-intended. However, this rule is going to put a business out. They work in the city of York, a fine city in central Pennsylvania, right downtown where we want manufacturing to happen, where people can walk to work. These folks are trying. They are mid-sized businesses in this economy, and the only thing that is going to put them out is this regulation, Mr. Chairman.

While well-intended, it is not going to be helpful. These folks are trying to do the right thing, but the government is getting in the way.

Believe it or not, Consumer Reports actually recommended against buying some of these systems under this testing rule because the systems had higher costs and poorer records.

Believe it or not, Mr. Chairman, the free market actually fixes most of this stuff. Most of us want to buy more efficient things that are cheaper, that are easier to maintain, and have a better record. This is Consumer Reports talking. This isn’t PERRY’s record. This is Consumer Reports talking.

Let us not put this company out of business. Let us not put these companies out of business. Let us be responsible. I urge passage.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this particular amendment.

I say to the gentleman: For the companies in your district, the regulations include the opportunity for waiver. And I would hope that the company in your district would be able to work that out.

The amendment that the gentleman proposes seeks to prohibit the Department of Energy from implementing testing procedures for the energy efficiency standards set for heat pumps and air-conditioners.

I, as the consumer, whether I am buying a heat pump, a furnace, a refrigerator—and every American who now shops looks for those—that is like the sticker. That is what you really look for, and you want to know how much you are going to pay every year for what that product will cost you for energy. And the better product you have, and you are able to put that on a label and it is verified by the Department of Energy, that helps sales.

The original standards that were created were supported by the Edison Electric Institute, the association which represents all investor-owned utilities. The amendment, by the way, is opposed by the Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute, which represents manufacturers of HVAC products that employ over 1.3 million Americans. And industry opposes the amendment, environmentalists oppose it, because it would cost an average—a cumulative cost to Americans of $12.2 billion over 30 years. So there is a lot of opposition to this.

It is important to note that these standards were negotiated in a collaborative process by industry groups, environmental nonprofits, and consumer advocates with the Department of Energy. A rider like this one damages the integrity of the negotiated rulemaking process, which is designed to provide certainty and voice to the industry and education and information to consumers.

Test procedures are simple and important. The Department of Energy develops them to make sure companies are rating their product accurately so consumers don’t get stuck paying higher prices than they expect, so you know what you buy.

Let’s be clear. This amendment would effectively nullify the efficiency standards for heating and cooling systems, in spite of the fact that these standards project that it will save billions of dollars over the period that they are applied, and that is equivalent to having 1 million fewer homes connected to the grid over the same period. It is an enormous savings.

If there is a particular company that is uniquely impairing by these rules, there are outlets for regulatory relief through waivers, as I have mentioned, and this amendment would neuter
Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, 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 Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 64 OFFERED BY MR. BUDD

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 64 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Chairman, as the designee of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY), 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 the division D (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ___. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the prevailing wage requirements in subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Davis-Bacon Act).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

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

Mr. Chairman, the Davis-Bacon Act hinders economic growth and increases the Federal deficit. It imposes enormous burdens, stifles contractor productivity, ignores skill differences for different jobs, and imposes rigid craftwork rules.

The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the Davis-Bacon Act will raise Federal construction costs by $13 billion between 2015 and 2023.

Now, wages are often set at or above the union scale, despite the fact that only 13 percent of the private construction workforce is unionized nationwide.

The Davis-Bacon wage determinations have also been known to be lower than the current market rate, which is equally problematic and especially detrimental for local contractors. It is just erratic.

The GAO, the Government Accountability Office, has repeatedly criticized DOL's Davis-Bacon wage determination process for its lack of transparency in the published wage rates and its tendency to gather erroneous data through unscientific wage surveys.

Repealing the DBA would allow the government to build more infrastructure and create 155,000 new construction-related jobs at the very same cost to the taxpayers. In fact, repealing Davis-Bacon would have saved the Federal government $13.9 billion, and that was back in 2011.

This amendment would uphold the government’s responsibility to deliver quality infrastructure improvements at the best possible price to the taxpayers, which is certainly what we owe them. It is imperative that all levels of government guarantee the general public that their tax dollars are being spent in the most effective way possible.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY) for his work on this amendment, and I withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 65 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 70 OFFERED BY MR. MITCHELL

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MITCHELL). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 70 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. MITCHELL. 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 the division D (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ___. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to delay the release of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) Brandon Road Study.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chairman, I rise today as an advocate of the Great Lakes. It is with that spirit I propose my amendment to prevent funds to be used to further delay the release of the Brandon Road Study.

Anyone who has spent time in my home State of Michigan or any of the Great Lakes States knows the beauty and importance of the lakes. In addition to their majesty, the Great Lakes supply 90 percent of the United States freshwater supply. Thirty million people live at the Great Lakes Basin, and they are all impacted by the quality of our lakes, whether as a water source, source of business, recreational opportunity, or the lakes’ inherent value as a natural wonder. Any risk to the Great Lakes is a significant problem, no matter how you measure that risk.

One of the threats facing our lakes is the potential entry of invasive species, the most pressing of which, at this time, is the threat of Asian carp entering the Great Lakes.

Asian carp have no natural predators in the lakes, meaning once they enter the Great Lakes, there is no way to stop their spread. Their unrestrained growth would disrupt the entire ecosystem.

In addition to the damage to native wildlife in the lakes, the introduction of carp would damage several multibillion-dollar industries, including the fishing and boating industries which support countless jobs in my
home State of Michigan and the Great Lakes.

Given the threat imposed by invasive species, the Army Corps of Engineers has been studying the best way to prevent introduction of the Asian carp into the Great Lakes Basin. Their study, the Brandon Road Study, was initially slated to be released on February 28 but has been delayed until further notice.

Delivering this study impedes the ability of all interested parties to develop a long-term strategy to thwart this threat. The continued delays create a great risk, yet no reason for delaying that release has been provided.

In late June, a live Asian carp was caught in the Illinois waterway about 2 miles below the ‘T.J. O’Brien Lock and Dam, 9 miles from Lake Michigan. This is the first time an Asian carp has been discovered in such close proximity to our lakes.

Though further study is necessary to determine how this carp entered the area, it is an alarming warning that the window is quickly closing to prevent large-scale devastation to the Great Lakes’ ecosystem.

The best way to mitigate the damage of Asian carp in our lakes is to stop it from happening altogether. For several months, members of the Great Lakes Task Force have requested the release of the Brandon Road Study, to no avail. I stand here today to again call on the Army Corps to release this study, which we have already paid for and they have conducted.

My amendment would prevent the Corps from using any more money—our money—to delay the release of the study.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment for the sake of the Great Lakes and for the well-being of our entire region.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, although I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this amendment offered by my friends, Mr. MITCHELL and Mr. HUIZENGA and, I have no doubt, many fellow travelers from the Great Lakes delegation on both sides of the aisle. I find it somewhat unusual that it is the last amendment this evening after midnight. I wish it had come up about 6 o’clock on the evening news.

This is an issue we know well, as Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. MITCHELL, and certainly our chairman, Mr. SIMPSON, has heard a great deal about this now, and our rank and file colleagues on the full committee as well.

We introduced a bill last month with the same ultimate effect of preventing the spread of Asian carp into the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes represent a $7 billion fishery, deeply threatened by these critters, Asian carp, that shouldn’t even be in this country but began their movement up the Mississippi River when they were brought in to the Brandon Road Study, a truly terrifying what they will do to everything in their sight. They consume native species and overwhelm their new ecosystems. They have gotten into the Ohio River, and they have gotten into rivers near Peoria. They eat up everything in their sight. They completely upend native ecosystems, and it is truly terrifying what they will do to our lakes and rivers and the entire Great Lakes region.

Asian carp represent a serious economic and environmental threat to the entire Great Lakes. These mean critters are voracious eaters. They destroy native species and overwhelm their new ecosystems. They have gotten into the Ohio River, and they have gotten into rivers near Peoria. They eat up everything in their sight. They are prolific, they are large, and they are predatory.

We should be aggressively pursuing action to prevent the spread of the Asian carp to the Great Lakes, yet the roadmap to getting there is locked in bureaucratic purgatory.

Finally, I would like to point out that this is not a partisan issue. Our substantively similar bill has 15 Republican and 16 Democratic cosponsors, who represent the vast majority of the Great Lakes States. In these hyperpartisan times, our constituents are united in their love for the Great Lakes, their desire to protect them, and their understanding of how vital they are to the future of this country and continent.

Mr. Chairman, I urge support for this amendment from all of my colleagues in order to save the national treasures that are the Great Lakes.

Mr. Chairman, I thank Congressman MITCHELL and Mr. HUIZENGA for taking the lead this evening from the great Wolverine State—and we Buckeyes don’t often say that, do we— for embracing what is truly important to all of us, and I urge my colleagues to support the Mitchell-Huizenga amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, as the designee of Chairman FEELINGHUISEN, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, while I would like to support this amendment, unfortunately, I can’t. But, believe me, I understand and have learned from Ms. KAPTUR and the members of the Great Lakes States when I was chairman of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. And now she sits on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee with me, and they have all come and talked to me about this problem.

This, unfortunately, pits kind of one State against another, and what I am trying to do is find a solution to this, because I happen to agree with these individuals that it seems rather silly that we go out and ask for a report to be done and then can’t seem to get it released—not only the final report, we cannot even get a draft report released that will go out for comment. That doesn’t make any sense to me.

But I know that there are Members who also have concerns about that, but that is, frankly, why you release a draft report, so that you can get the comments.

During full committee consideration on the Energy and Water bill, we discussed a similar amendment that was offered by Ms. KAPTUR, my ranking member, Mr. JOYCE, and Mr. MOGLENAAR; and I committed to them at the time that I would work with all interested parties and Members to try to move these efforts forward and I am happy to reiterate that commitment now.

What I am asking is if the gentleman will withdraw the amendment, give me a chance, and I commit to try to get this report out, because I think it needs to get done, and I think, together, we can convince the Army Corps and maybe the administration that it needs to get done. So that would be my request.

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chair, in deference to Mr. SIMPSON, I will work with him and others in the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus to see if we can move forward on this issue.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.
MITCHELL) having assumed the chair, Mr. PERRY. Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel pursuant to Public Law 95–384 are as follows:

**REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2017**

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<th>Departure</th>
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</table>

**EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.**

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

2086. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s affirmation of interim rule as final rule — Sweet Onion Growth in the Walla Walla Valley of Southeast Washington and Northeast Oregon; Decreased Assessment Rate (Docket No.: AMS-SC-16-0116; SC17-096-1 FR) received July 27, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 886); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2087. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s Selected Acquisition Report for the Army Major Defense Acquisition Programs; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2088. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled “Premarket Approval of Pediatric Uses of Devices — FY 2015”; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2089. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, National Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission’s final rule — Incorporation by Reference of American Society of Mechanical Engineers Codes and Code Cases (NRC-2011-0088) (RIN: 3150-A197) received July 27, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 886); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2090. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, National Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission’s revision 4 of RG 1.20 rule — Comprehensive Vibration Assessment Program for Reactor Internals During Preoperational and Startup Testing (Regulatory Guide 1.20) received July 27, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 886); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2091. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission’s regulatory guide withdrawal — Evaluation of Shipper-Recipient Differences in the Transfer of Special Nuclear Material (Regulatory Guide 5.28, Revision 0); Internal Transfers of Special Nuclear Material (Regulatory Guide 5.49, Revision 0); Shipping and Receiving Control of Strategic Special Nuclear Material (Regulatory Guide 5.57, Revision 1) received July 27, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 886); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2092. A letter from the Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, transmitting the Agency’s 2016 Annual Report, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 2002(b); Public Law 109-469, Sec. 702(b); (120 Stat. 3534); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2093. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process that was declared in Executive Order 12947 of January 23, 1995, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2094. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 17-016, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) and 36(d) of the
Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2096. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. 2017-003, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2097. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. 2017-004, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2098. A letter from the Acting Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting the Board’s FY 2017 inventory of commercial and inherently governmental activities, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 501 note; Public Law 105-270, Sec. 2(c)(1)(A); (112 Stat. 2382); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2099. A letter from the Chief, Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting a notice of a designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-270, Sec. 1(c)(2)(A); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2100. A letter from the Chief, Regulatory Coordination Division, Office of Policy and Strategy, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s temporary rule — Expiration of Time-Limited Authority to Increase the Fiscal Year 2017 Numerical Limitation for the H-2B Temporary Non-Agricultural Worker Program (CIS No.: 2805-17; DHS Docket No.: USCIS-2017-0004) (RIN: 1615-AC12) received July 19, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 866); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2101. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s temporary rule — Safety Zone, Severn River, Sherwood Forest, MD [Docket No.: USCG-2017-0688] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 19, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 866); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2102. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Navigation and Navigable Waters, and Shipping; Technical, Organizational, and Conforming Amendments [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0498] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 19, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 866); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.


2104. A letter from the Board Members, Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Federal Disability Insurance Trust Funds, transmitting the 2017 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Funds, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 910(a); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title VII, Sec. 709 (as added by Public Law 98-21, Sec. 145); (97 Stat. 102); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2957. A bill to amend the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1977 to provide for the establishment of a partnership between States and nongovernmental entities for the purpose of reclaiming and restoring land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining activities before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-256). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Committee on Rules. House Resolution 473. Resolution providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2957) to amend the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1977 to provide for the establishment of a partnership between States and nongovernmental entities for the purpose of reclaiming and restoring land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining activities before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-261). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 3399. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide for an additional deduction for interest and taxes relating to land used for dwelling purposes owned or leased by cooperative housing corporations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H.R. 3400. A bill to promote innovative approaches to outdoor recreation on Federal land and water resources; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H.R. 3401. A bill to amend chapter 301 of title 49, United States Code, to provide for the development of new vehicle safety features, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California (for herself and Mr. LEGUMA):

H.R. 3402. A bill to amend the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Act to extend the exemption for the development of new vehicle safety features, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MOORE (for herself and Mr. BLACKBURN):

H.R. 3403. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to exempt small and medium-size coal mines from certain provisions; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 3404. A bill to authorize the Federal Trade Commission to establish new exemptions for motor vehicle safety standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. VAUSEY, Mr. LANCE, Mr. THOMPSON of Michigan, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 3405. A bill to allow exemptions for the development of new vehicle safety features, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DINGELL:

H.R. 3406. A bill to amend section 30113 of title 49, United States Code, to exempt small and medium-size coal mines from certain provisions; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. VAUSEY, Mr. LANCE, Mr. THOMPSON of Michigan, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 3407. A bill to amendment chapter 301 of subtitle VI of title 49, United States Code, to require cybersecurity requirements for automated vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LANCE (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 3408. A bill to amend section 30113 of title 49, United States Code to establish new exemptions for motor vehicle safety standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. VAUSEY, Mr. LANCE, Mr. THOMPSON of Michigan, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 3409. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to prohibit pyramid promotional schemes and to ensure that compensation is not contingent on participants enrolling another participant, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VILLARAIGOSA (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 3410. A bill to promote cybersecurity and reduce risk and recidivism; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. CONyers, Ms. CICILLINE, Ms. MOOKE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. McNINHRY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RUSH, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MCCOVERN, Ms. BASS, Ms. SHELWELL of Alabama, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Ms. TAYLOR of Georgia):

H.R. 3411. A bill to enhance public health and safety by improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Federal prison system for incarcerated pregnant women and mothers by establishing a pilot program of critical-stage, developmental nurseries in Federal prisons for children born to inmates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BROWN of Maryland (for himself and Mr. PALONE):

H.R. 3412. A bill to provide for the establishment of a Committee on Cybersecurity and Intelligence; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CARDENAS (for himself and Mr. DINGELL):

H.R. 3413. A bill to provide for the establishment in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of a Highly Automated Vehicle Advisory Committee; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California (for herself and Ms. MatsuSUI):

H.R. 3414. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish the Automated Digital Infrastructure Security Advisory Council to make recommendations regarding cybersecurity for...
the testing, deployment, and updating of automated driving systems; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MULLIN:
H.R. 3411. A bill to amend section 30103 of title 49, United States Code, to establish sole authority for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration over the regulation of highly automated vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BLIJRIJKIS (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL):
H.R. 3413. A bill to establish in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration a Disability Mobility Advisory Council to make recommendations regarding advancing mobility access for the disabled community through the regulation of automated driving systems; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HARPER (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL):
H.R. 3414. A bill to establish in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration a Disability Mobility Advisory Council to make recommendations regarding advancing mobility access for the disabled community through the regulation of automated driving systems; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York):
H.R. 3415. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure appropriate care for victims of sexual assault, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself and Mr. WELCH):
H.R. 3416. A bill to establish in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration a Rural and Mountainous Advisory Council to make recommendations regarding the testing and deployment of highly automated vehicles and automated driving systems in areas that are rural, remote, mountainous, insular, or unmapped; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:
H.R. 3417. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a pilot program to improve community-based care infrastructure; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Ms. BASS, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Ms. MOORE):
H.R. 3418. A bill to require States to inform children in foster care under the responsibility of the State who have attained 14 years of age of all government programs under which the child may be eligible for financial assistance for expenses related to higher education; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BIGGS (for himself, Mr. GOMBERT, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. JONES):
H.R. 3419. A bill to repeal the Department of Agriculture bioenergy subsidy programs and other related subsidy programs; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Mr. CICILLINE):
H.R. 3420. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions fees and charges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. YODEH, and Ms. LOFORON):
H.R. 3427. A bill to provide for Federal agencies to develop public access policies related to research conducted by employees of that agency or from funds administered by that agency; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. EMMER (for himself and Mr. DEFAZIO):
H.R. 3428. A bill to establish a website for Federal Government apps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas (for himself, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska):
H.R. 3429. A bill to prohibit the removal from the United States of certain veterans, to expedite their naturalization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and 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. GUTHRIE:
H.R. 3430. A bill to establish in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration a Highly Automated Vehicle Information Sharing Advisory Council to make recommendations regarding the development of a framework that allows manufacturers of automated vehicles to share information related to testing or deployment events on public streets; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. HIGGINS of Louisiana (for herself, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, and Mr. ABRAHAM):
H.R. 3431. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the volumetric excise tax credit for liquid fuel derived from natural gas through the Fischer-Tropsch process; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:
H.R. 3432. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act relating to the reimbursement of travel expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois (for herself and Mr. BOST):
H.R. 3433. A bill to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to increase the number of base acres upon which agricultural producers are authorized to grow fruits and vegetables without a resulting reduction in payment acres on their farm when the resulting produce is used to help alleviate a food desert, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Ms. SLANEY, Mr. DELAURO, Mr. SCHWAPP, and Mr. RASKIN):
H.R. 3434. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to the treated corporate costs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. LOWEY (for herself and Mr. GARANGER):
H.R. 3435. A bill to prohibit the transportation of certain volatile crude oil by rail; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MCSALLY (for herself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Ms. SINEMA):
H.R. 3436. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a southwest border threat analysis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mrs. NOEM:
H.R. 3437. A bill to prevent States from counting certain expenditures as State spending to reduce TANF work requirements; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. NOEM:
H.R. 3438. A bill to increase the employment, job retention, and earnings of former TANF recipients; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PITTENGER:
H.R. 3439. A bill to facilitate better information sharing to assist in the fight against the financing of terrorist activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (for herself and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN):
H.R. 3440. A bill to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain individuals who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MESSER (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HARPER, and Mr. JODY of Georgia):
H. Con. Res. 73. Concurrent resolution effectuating the Compact for a Balanced Budget; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. NAPOLITANO (for herself, Mr. CURRIBELLO of Florida, Ms. BORDALLO of Guam, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. VElez-AZQUiZ, Mr. GOMEZ of California, Mr. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. K HuEN, Ms. MICHELLE LUCIAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. SARLAN, Mr. O‘ROURKE, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. COHREE, and Mrs. TORREIA):
H. Res. 476. A resolution supporting the inclusion and meaningful engagement of Latinos in environmental protection and conservation efforts; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GAETZ (for himself, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. RIDOS, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. FRANCES of Arizona, Mr. PERO of Texas, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. YOHO, Mr. BELUM, Mr. DESJARRAIS, Mr. PERRY, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. BRAT, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. AMODEI):
H. Res. 477. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a special counsel should be appointed by the Attorney General or his designee to investigate misconduct by former Attorney General Loretta Lynch and former Federal Bureau of Investigation Director James B. Comey with regard to the investigation of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for mishandling of classified data and use of an unauthorized email server; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEMORIALS
Under clause 3 of rule XII.
95. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey, relative to Assembly Resolution No. 138, condemning the immigration Executive Order and firing of the Acting Attorney General, which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT
Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. ELLISON:
H.R. 3399. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 7, Clause 1 and Section 8, Clause 1.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:
H.R. 3400. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article IV, Section 3, clause 2 and Article I, Section 8, clause 18.

By Ms. SCHAOKWSKY:
H.R. 3401. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8 empowers Congress to "regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. BROWN of Maryland:
H.R. 3402. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8 empowers Congress to "regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. GARDENIA:
H.R. 3403. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. UPTON:
H.R. 3404. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. USHER:
H.R. 3405. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8.

The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce . . . among the several States . . .

By Mr. LANCE:
H.R. 3406. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, with the Indian Tribes.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:
H.R. 3409. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:
H.R. 3410. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 3411. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. MULLIN:
H.R. 3412. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:
H.R. 3413. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (which states that "The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States") and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (which states that the Congress shall have the Power "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes") of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. HARPER:
H.R. 3414. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. POE of Texas:
H.R. 3415. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. MULLIN:
H.R. 3416. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 3417. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. MCKINLEY:
H.R. 3418. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mrs. LAWRENCE:
H.R. 3419. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 3420. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 3421. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
Congressional Record — House

By Mr. BIGGS:
H.R. 3419.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. BLUMENAUER:
H.R. 3420.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
By Mr. BUCSHON:
H.R. 3421.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:
H.R. 3422.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.
By Mr. DELANEY:
H.R. 3423.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Ms. DELAURO:
H.R. 3424.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 3 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. DESSERT:
H.R. 3425.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3; To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes; and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department Officer thereof.
By Mrs. DINGELL:
H.R. 3426.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section VIII
By Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 3427.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3; The Congress shall have the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have the power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all of the Power vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department Officer thereof.
By Mr. EMMER:
H.R. 3428.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3; To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes.
By Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas:
H.R. 3429.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 8, Clause 12 of the U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 8, Clause 13, of the U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 8, Clause 15, of the U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 8, Clause 16 of the U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 8, Clause 17 of the U.S. Constitution.
By Mr. GUTHRIE:
H.R. 3430.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Congress shall have power . . . To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes
By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:
H.R. 3431.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:
H.R. 3432.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution, to provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.
By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:
H.R. 3433.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
US Const. Art. I, Sec. 8, Cl. 3 (The Congress shall have Power To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian Tribes, . . .) (This bill would amend federal crop insurance law to incentivize farmers to grow more fruits and vegetables—thereby altering the supply of crops, and therefore food prices) (Cf. Wickard v. Filburn).
By Mr. LEVIN:
H.R. 3434.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mrs. LOWEY:
H.R. 3435.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I
By Ms. McSALLY:
H.R. 3436.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1—The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debt and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—To make Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Power, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
By Mrs. NOEM:
H.R. 3437.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Ms. NOYET:
H.R. 3438.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Certificate of Election pursuant to the following:
Pursuant to the Commerce Clause, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.
By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD:
H.R. 3439.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
ADDITIONAL SPONSORS
Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:
H.R. 19: Ms. Tenney, Mr. RoHRABACHER, Mr. LoBIONDO, Mr. CURBelo of Florida, Mr. PACE, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. RADERWAGEN, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. PETTerson.
H.R. 38: Mr. Issa.
H.R. 44: Mr. WEsterman.
H.R. 233: Ms. TsongAs.
H.R. 299: Mr. MIChaEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. Speier, and Mrs. MCCOrMISs RODGERs.
H.R. 360: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 449: Ms. Esho.
H.R. 490: Mr. Hill.
H.R. 592: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. Ryan of Ohio.
H.R. 525: Mr. SANFORD.
H.R. 629: Mr. CUelLAR and Mr. RUSSell.
H.R. 631: Mr. LONG, Mr. Ross, and Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 671: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 719: Mr. McDOWDOS and Mr. LambROn.
H.R. 772: Mr. SHIMKUS.
H.R. 788: Mr. Collins of New York and Mr. Thompson of California.
H.R. 818: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 839: Mr. ROYCE of California, Mr. CRIST, Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee, and Mr. WELCh.
H.R. 849: Mr. LUCAS.
H.R. 866: Ms. NORTON and Ms. BARRAGAN.
H.R. 873: Mr. EVANS and Mrs. BRATTY.
H.R. 909: Miss GONZALEZ-COLON of Puerto Rico.
H.R. 931: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 959: Ms. SlaughteR and Ms. BARRAGAN.
H.R. 1003: Mr. McNENNEY, Mr. DeFazio, Ms. SPEIer, Mr. RICK of South Carolina, and Mr. BOST.
H.R. 1098: Ms. McCollum.
H.R. 1144: Ms. GABBAReD.
H.R. 1164: Mrs. NOEM, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. LONG, Mr. Smith of New Jersey, and Mr. AmOEDE.
H.R. 1171: Mr. HUFFman.
H.R. 1189: Mr. BrADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1230: Mr. MeRBAN.
H.R. 1232: Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 1276: Mr. CarRAJAL.
H.R. 1291: Ms. ESY of Connecticut.
H.R. 1318: Mr. LANCE.
H.R. 1341: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 1361: Mr. Tonko.
H.R. 1408: Mr. PALLINE.
H.R. 1432: Mr. CouNERS.
H.R. 1456: Mr. RUSKAM.
H.R. 1528: Mr. BeN Ray LujÁN of New Mexico, Mr. AmOEDE, and Ms. McCollum.
H.R. 1606: Mr. king of Iowa and Mr. OlsON.
H.R. 1626: Mr. CarRAJAL.
H.R. 1673: Mr. JEFFRies.
H.R. 1686: Mr. CoREa.
H.R. 1782: Mr. PHELlMMUTTER.
H.R. 1776: Mr. McCollUm.
H.R. 1796: Mr. McGovern, Mrs. ROBY, and Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 1825: Mr. Flores.
H.R. 1861: Ms. Jenkins of Kansas.
H.R. 1864: Mr. Renacci.
H.R. 1910: Mr. McHenry.
H.R. 1963: Mr. Schmucker.
H.R. 2000: Mr. Conyers.
H.R. 2001: Mr. Conyers.
H.R. 2061: Mr. Connolly, Mr. Curbelo of Florida, Mr. Schneider, Mr. Donovan, and Mr. Kiss of California.
H.R. 2069: Mr. Raskin and Mr. Bacon.
H.R. 2118: Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania, Mr. Brendan Boyle of Pennsylvania, Mr. Kiss of California, Mr. Stefanelli of New York, and Mr. Kristin波特.
H.R. 2133: Mr. Arrington and Mr. Fitzpatrick.
H.R. 2173: Ms. Clark of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2235: Mr. Bacon.
H.R. 2285: Mr. Duncan of Tennessee.
H.R. 2289: Mr. Curbelo of Florida and Mr. Hunter.
H.R. 2319: Ms. Sinema.
H.R. 2327: Ms. McCollum, Ms. DelBene, and Mr. Wilson of South Carolina.
H.R. 2468: Mr. Kinzinger, Mr. Royce of California, Dr. Krishnamoorthi, Ms. Judy Chu of California, Mr. Visclosky, Mr. Payne, Mr. Moulton, Mr. Peters, Mr. Donovan, Ms. Tsongas, and Mrs. Watson Coleman.
H.R. 2469: Mr. Schmucker.
H.R. 2432: Mr. Lamborn.
H.R. 2462: Mr. Swalwell of California and Ms. Krishnamoorthi.
H.R. 2585: Ms. Gabbard.
H.R. 2633: Mr. Olson.
H.R. 2634: Mr. Rodney Davis of Illinois.
H.R. 2651: Mr. Byrne, Ms. Esky of Connecticut, and Mr. Katko.
H.R. 2663: Mr. Flores.
H.R. 2666: Mrs. Radewagen.
H.R. 2699: Mr. Cooper and Mr. Kennedy.
H.R. 2715: Ms. Barragan.
H.R. 2723: Mr. Chabot.
H.R. 2722: Mr. Connolly and Mr. Zeldin.
H.R. 2740: Mr. Bishop of Utah, Mr. Curbelo of Florida, Mr. Serrano, Mr. Meehan, Mr. Lipinski, Mr. Mooney of West Virginia, and Mr. Webster of Florida.
H.R. 2741: Mr. Buda.
H.R. 2803: Ms. Kuster of New Hampshire and Mr. Perlmutter.
H.R. 2821: Mr. Paulsen.
H.R. 2851: Mr. O’Halleran, Ms. Hanabusa, Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania, Mr. Veasey, and Mr. Brown of Maryland.
H.R. 2876: Mr. Ryan of Ohio, Mrs. Beaty, Mrs. Dingell, Mr. Larsen of Washington, Ms. Speier, Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania, Ms. Elooo, Mr. Schneider, Mr. Soto, Mr. Moulton, Mr. Correa, Mr. Cummings, Mr. Butterfield, Mr. Cooper, and Mr. Ellison.
H.R. 2925: Mr. Ellison.
H.R. 2926: Mr. Sessions.
H.R. 2927: Mr. desJarlais, Mr. Walz, Mr. Veia, Mr. Stewart, and Mr. Huffman.
H.R. 2960: Mr. Takano.
H.R. 2968: Mr. Raskin.
H.R. 2989: Mr. Bishop of Michigan and Mr. Fitzpatrick.
H.R. 2991: Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Thompson of Pennsylvania, Mr. Murphy of Pennsylvania, Mr. Kelly of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Ruppers.
H.R. 2996: Mr. Rice of South Carolina, Mr. Allen, and Mr. Meadows.
H.R. 3048: Mr. McNerney.
H.R. 3153: Mr. Kihara, Mr. Young of Alaska, Mr. Duncan of South Carolina, Mr. LaHood, Mr. Hill, and Mr. Courtney.
H.R. 3067: Mr. Woodall.
H.R. 3071: Mr. Jody B. Hice of Georgia.
H.R. 3082: Ms. Bordallo.
H.R. 3117: Mr. Abraham.
H.R. 3131: Mr. Crumier.
H.R. 3122: Mr. Olson.
H.R. 3124: Ms. Lofgren.
H.R. 3125: Mr. Vela, Mr. Hastings, and Mr. Raskin.
H.R. 3222: Mr. Smith of Washington.
H.R. 3227: Mr. Khanna.
H.R. 3236: Mr. Cole.
H.R. 3239: Mr. Costa and Ms. Gabbard.
H.R. 3248: Mr. Kind.
H.R. 3258: Ms. Maxine Waters of California, Ms. Delauro, Mr. Vargas, Mr. Takano, Mr. Correa, Ms. Shea-Porter, Ms. Tutt, Ms. Norton, Mr. Raskin, Mr. Engil, and Ms. Speier.
H.R. 3274: Mr. MacArthur, Ms. Eddie Buerkle Johnson of Texas, Mr. Clyburn, Ms. Norton, Mr. Hodgins of New York, Mr. Rohrabacher, Mr. Lamborn, Ms. Jenkins of Kansas, Mr. Clay, Mr. Westerman, Mr. Valadao, Ms. Radewagen, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Mr. Bishop of Michigan, Mr. Collins of New York, and Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3292: Mr. Sensenbrenner, Mr. Jenkins of Kansas, Mr. Rokita, Mr. Brady of Texas, Mr. Marchant, Mrs. Walorski, Mr. Thompson of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Smith of Mississippi.
H.R. 3296: Mr. Evans.
H.R. 3312: Ms. Sewell of Alabama, Mr. Hastings, and Mr. Pearce.
H.R. 3314: Ms. Barragan, Mr. Blumenauer, and Ms. Lee.
H.R. 3323: Mr. Raskin.
H.R. 3327: Mr. Lobiondo.
H.R. 3329: Mr. Roskam, Mr. O’Halloran, Ms. Hanabusa, and Mr. Murphy of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3332: Mr. Carson of Indiana, Mrs. Walorski, Mr. Black, Mr. Smith of Nebraska, Mrs. Nung, Mr. Bishop of Michigan, Mr. Reed, Mr. Marchant, Mr. Holding, Mr. Nunes, Mr. Tiberi, Mr. Sam Johnson of Texas, Mr. Brady of Texas, Mr. Meehan, Mr. Reichert, Mr. Paulsen, Mr. Curbelo of Florida, Mr. Roskam, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Renacci, Mr. Smith of Missouri, Mr. Schweikert, Mr. Donovan, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Kihara, Mr. Garrett, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Rouzer, Mr. Berman, Mr. Coffman, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Ratcliffe, Mr. LaMalfa, Mr. Gilles, Mr. Stewart, Mrs. Hartzler, Mr. Meng, Mr. Pittenger, Mr. Olson, Mr. Lucas, Mr. LaHood, Mr. Bacon, and Mr. Graves of Louisiana.
H.R. 3359: Mr. King of New York.
H.R. 3361: Mr. Foster.
H.R. 3380: Mr. Sires, Mr. Mkeks, Mr. Blumenauer, Ms. Barragan, Mr. Khanna, and Mr. Evans.
H.R. 3394: Mr. Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico, Mr. Vargas, and Mr. Grijalva.
H.J. Res. 1: Mr. Flores, Mr. King of Iowa, and Mr. Chabot.
H.J. Res. 2: Mr. Flores, Mr. King of Iowa, and Mr. Chabot.
H.J. Res. 51: Mr. Lucas.
H. Con. Res. 19: Mr. Paschkeell.
H. Con. Res. 18: Mr. Hollingsworth.
H. Res. 30: Mr. McCaul.
H. Res. 129: Ms. Bordallo, Mr. Messer, and Mrs. Beatty.
H. Res. 201: Ms. Lowery and Mr. Poe of Texas.
H. Res. 239: Mr. Bucshon and Mr. Wilson of South Carolina.
H. Res. 274: Mr. Wittman.
H. Res. 279: Mr. Norcross.
H. Res. 317: Ms. Jayapal, Mr. Garrett, Mr. Rohrabacher, Mr. Sensenbrenner, and Mr. Simpson.
H. Res. 400: Mr. Ross and Mrs. McMorris Rodgers.
H. Res. 401: Mr. Correa and Ms. Jayapal.
H. Res. 435: Mr. Veasey and Mrs. Beatty.
H. Res. 446: Ms. Bass and Mrs. Lowery.
H. Res. 456: Mr. Thompson of Mississippi.
H. Res. 474: Mr. Conyers.
The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAND PAUL, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

PRAYER
The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Beautiful Savior, You have been our dwelling place in all generations, and we are sustained by Your steadfast love. Today, surround our Senators with the shield of Your favor, as they labor to keep our Nation strong.

Lord, teach them to be obedient to Your commands, doing Your good will as Your presence fills them with joy. May they be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger. Manifest Your power throughout their labors, so that this Nation will be exalted by righteousness.

May Your angels guard us in all our ways. We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:


To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAND PAUL, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Kentucky, to perform the duties of the Chair.

OREN G. HATCH, President pro tempore.

Mr. PAUL thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The Acting PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

HEALTHCARE
Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate took a critical step yesterday afternoon to finally leave the failed experiment of ObamaCare in the past. It marks an important moment for our country. It signals a positive development for the countless Americans who continue to suffer under ObamaCare's skyrocketing costs and diminishing options.

I thank every colleague who voted to begin the debate. I thank the President, his administration, and our friends in the House for the roles they have played.

Now we have to keep working hard. We are determined to do everything we can to succeed. We know our constituents are counting on us. We will work through an open amendment process. I know Members in both parties have healthcare ideas they would like to offer. If you have one, bring it to the floor.

Last night the Senate considered a comprehensive ObamaCare repeal-and-replace substitute. That amendment was subject to a 60-vote threshold because the Congressional Budget Office had not provided a score for that provision as yet, but it represented a number of important healthcare reform ideas developed by our Members.

Later today, the Senate will vote on another alternative that is based on the ObamaCare repeal legislation that passed Congress in 2015 and was vetoed by President Obama.

We will consider many different proposals throughout this process from Senators on both sides of the aisle. Ultimately, we want to get legislation to finally end the failed ObamaCare status quo through Congress and to the President's desk for his signature.

This certainly will not be easy. Hardly anything in this process has been. We know that moving beyond the failures of ObamaCare is the right thing to do. We have put a lot of hard work already into this. We have had important successes, as we saw with the vote to proceed yesterday. We have to keep up the work now so we can get this done.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME
The Acting PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS
The Acting PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2017
The Acting PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1628, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1628) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017. Pending:

McConnell amendment No. 267, of a perfecting nature.

Enzi (for PAUL) amendment No. 271 (to amendment No. 267), of a perfecting nature.

Donnelly motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report back with instructions.

The Acting PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the
time until 11:30 a.m. will be equally divided between the leaders or their designees.

Who yields time?

If no one yields time, time will be charged equally to both sides.

REREading Leader

The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my speaking time be taken from leader time, not the debate time.

The Clerk is instructed to so inform the PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as the Senate continues the debate on the Republican healthcare bill, it seems the Republican majority is no clearer on what the endgame is because there is no good way out of this.

Last night, the Senate Republican TrumpCare bill—after months of backroom negotiating and provisions aimed at all individual States and Members—died, with nine Republicans voting against the measure and many others who voted for it gritting their teeth unhappily.

Later today, we will vote on a bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act without replacing it. I know that you, Mr. President, have championed that bill. Based on public comments and public criticism from the other side of the aisle, repeal without replace will fall as well. It is becoming clearer that in the end, the Republican leader might push a much scaled-back version of repeal in the hopes of passing something—a so-called skinny repeal—just to get to conference. My colleagues, make no mistake about it, skinny repeal is equal to full repeal. It is a Trojan horse, designed to get the House and Senate into conference where a hard-right flank of the House Republicans, the Freedom Caucus, will demand full repeal or something very close to it. They will demand all the things—deep cuts to Medicaid, generous tax breaks for the wealthy, elimination of pre-existing conditions, slashing the kinds of things people need for nursing homes and opioid treatment and disabled kids—that many of my Republican colleagues in the Senate have very sincerely tried to undo.

There is no such thing as skinny repeal. It is a ruse to get to full repeal, with all the concomitant cuts to Medicaid and tax breaks which are so unpopular and which so many of my Republican colleagues here on the other side have opposed. It is clear House and Senate Republicans are miles apart. They are divided on major issues—on Medicaid, tax breaks, and preexisting conditions. The differences between House Republicans and Senate Republicans are virtually irreconcilable. So what is the point of a conference?

You can imagine a conference that turns into an endless game of hot potato; the Republican leader and the Senate passing the potato to the House; the Republican leader of the House passing the potato back to the Senate because neither wants to be responsible for what is inevitable: the demise of TrumpCare. Of course, it is likely a conference could probably produce no agreement at all, keeping the incredibly toxic and unpopular TrumpCare bill the topic of conversation for months, stalling the legislative agenda for another 3 months, and in the end getting nothing done.

My Republican colleagues should consider this. My Republican colleagues want to work with us on so many issues. Above all, NDAA, which my dear friend John McCain, who we prayer for every day, wants to get to right away, and the Energy bill, which my colleague from Washington and her chair, the senior Member from Alaska, could bring to the floor and get moving in a bipartisan way. Leader McConnell has made it clear he wants to move nominations.

If we stop playing this game with TrumpCare and send it back to committee and do regular order, as John McCain preached so well yesterday, we could move on to all these other things in a good, strong, bipartisan way and start to get things done. My Republican colleagues should consider that carefully.

We Democrats want to start working with our Republican colleagues on the issues I mentioned. We also want to work on improving ACA. No one has said ACA is perfect. I have called five or six of my Republican colleagues on the other side and said if we stop this effort with TrumpCare—with repeal or repeal and replace with something far worse than the present—we can go back to committee and improve the present healthcare system and get premiums lower, make healthcare better, and stabilize the system so there is more competitiveness. We will do that.

My good friend the Senator from Wyoming, not the Senator sitting here but his colleague—I heard he was saying to some Members: Oh, the Democrats will never negotiate. Schumie will never negotiate. I saw him last night on the floor, and I assured him we will. That is our goal. He accepted that in good faith, which I very much respect.

So the bottom line is simple. I say to my Republican colleagues, when you find yourself in a hole, the first rule is stop digging. By continuing this process, you will find yourself in a hole, the first rule is stop digging. By continuing this process, we will have no choice, we will have to do a bunch of amendments, and then we will have no choice, we will have to send something to conference because we couldn't get anything major done. That is a lot of bunk. We have had no hearings, we had no amendments, we have no bipartisan discussions and we will not even be able to have debate on many amendments on one of the most major bills affecting us, that affects tens of millions of people's health, and affects one-sixth of the economy. Don't do this for this, oh, we are having a full process. I like my friend the Republican leader. We get along well, but sometimes he says things that when I hear them, I get a little twinge in the stomach. We have a full and open amendment process, he said three or four times. Everyone in this Chamber knows that is not the case. Don't be deduced into thinking, well, we tried. We haven't tried until we go back to regular order.

COMMENTS OF THE PRESIDENT ON ATTORNEY GENERAL SESSIONS

Mr. President, on another matter, President Trump continues to find new ways to humiliate his own Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, a man who stuck his neck out for the President because the President knew he was good at it. I heard President Trump say: I was already popular. As I remember it, when Jeff Sessions supported him, he was an underdog, and everyone said: Wow, Jeff Sessions is doing that out of loyalty to the President. Why would the President humiliate his own Attorney General? It seems clear the President's intention is to make life unbearable for the Attorney General, hoping to prompt his resignation. All Americans should be wondering why the President is publicly demeaning and humiliating such a close friend and supporter—a member of his own party, a former senator, a former colleague of the President. Why is the President doing this? Why is the President trying to pry open the office of Attorney General to appoint someone during the August recess who will fire Special Counsel Mueller and shut down the Republican investigation. Let me say, if such a situation arises, Democrats will use every tool in our toolbox to stymie such a recess appointment.

Second, I can't imagine my friends on the Republican side, particularly my friend in the Republican leadership, and my friend, the majority leader and Speaker Ryan—I can't imagine they would be complicit in creating a constitutional crisis. They must work with us and not
open the door to a constitutional crisis during the August recess.

SANCTIONS BILL

Mr. President, one final point because I know my colleagues are waiting: sanctions—finally, a word on them. Yesterday, the House of Representatives passed unanimously, 419 to 3, a sanctions bill that was a product of bicameral, bipartisan negotiations and includes strong sanctions against Russia, Iran, and North Korea. The Senate must act quickly on the legislation from the House.

I understand that earlier today the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee indicated he plans to strip out a section of this package that relates to North Korea. This is yet another delay generated by Republicans to prevent this bill from landing on the President's desk before we leave for the recess. Even as we debate other items here on the floor, we shouldn't delay this legislation any longer.

I will work with the majority leader to schedule another vote on the sanctions bill so that we can send the legislation to the President's desk before the recess, and I expect the vote will constitute a veto-proof majority, just like the vote in the House.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The Senator from Washington.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

Ms. CAPRICE. Mr. President, I saw the remarks of the President of the United States in Youngstown, OH, and it has brought me to the floor this morning because the focus of some of his speech was on the economy and job creation. Well, I can tell the President right now that we need his urgent attention to making sure that we create jobs right now. It is not about something in the future; it is about right now.

There are over 40 projects worth $30 billion being held up because the Export-Import Bank does not have a quorum. It is incredibly important to get a functioning bank and to get a board that supports having the support of a credit agency to work with the private sector to finance the sale of U.S.-made products.

The President seems to embrace the notion that we should make things in America. I think we should make things in America, but I don't think that we sell them only in America. I actually want to sell the great manufactured products of the United States of America to overseas markets, to the 95 percent of consumers who are outside the United States. But because this administration has not shown the leadership to get a functioning Export-Import Bank, we continue to struggle. Those $30 billion in projects are being held up because we don't have a functioning quorum.

Geographically in Ohio—I wish he would have visited them because they decided to move part of their operations to Canada and Brazil, instead of expanding in Ohio, to take advantage of countries that actually have a credit agency. GE Aircraft Engines decided to open a turbine prop engine facility in Europe for the same reason. We are losing jobs simply because we don't have a tool, a vehicle with private-sector banking to make sure that the sale of U.S.-manufactured products actually gets done to countries and organizations in those countries that don't have the proper financing. GE supposedly said that they weren't going to move their headquarters to Ohio because they did not support the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.

Between 2012 and 2016, the Export-Import Bank supported more than 256 export deals in Ohio from all sizes of companies, such as Haltec, which exports auto parts, and Anglo American Hardwoods, which exports wood products to the GE Aviation that I mentioned and GE Aircraft Engines. These deals were worth more than $2 billion.

What I am so frustrated about is that this administration has not kept its word in support of the Export-Import Bank. We continue today with the folly of having our Trade Ambassador show up before the House Appropriations Committee and say that the Export-Import Bank is controversial. I reminded him that it was actually supported by a majority of Democrats and a majority of Republicans in the U.S. Senate. It was also supported by a majority of Republicans in the House of Representatives and the Democrats in the House of Representatives. So how could it be so controversial if we reauthorized it?

But the White House has continued to have a double-edged strategy, pretend that they support the Export-Import Bank, and yet send up the name of a nominee to chair the bank who wants to destroy the bank and has made that intention clear.

If we want jobs in Ohio, we need to get the Export-Import Bank approving deals from manufacturers that are ready to close sales and create more jobs, so let's focus on the task at hand. I hope the President will stand up and clearly articulate the need and support for an Export-Import Bank, stop sending us the name of someone who just wants to destroy it.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

REQUESTS FOR AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I have 12 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They do not have the approval of the Democratic leader; therefore, they will not be permitted to meet past 11:30 this morning, but I ask unanimous consent that a list of committees requesting authority to meet be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:
mandates. We are trying to repair the Nation’s broken healthcare system because we now have a President in the White House who shares our commitment to improve America’s healthcare system and make better care available to all Americans.

One of our top priorities in Congress has been to provide relief for hard-working Americans from ObamaCare, which has pushed insurance markets to the brink of collapse. In Wyoming and across the country, premiums for hard-working families are soaring while choices for patients have dwindled. As I travel across Wyoming, I have a lot of people who tell me that their health insurance costs more than their mortgage and, if they ever need healthcare, they have a deductible that is bigger than that.

Simply put, ObamaCare stumbled out of the starting gate on the very first date the healthcare.gov website launched. You might remember how you could go online in the website or you got kicked off after you had done a lot to put in information. Yes, ObamaCare stumbled out of the starting gate on the very first day that the healthcare.gov website was launched, and it failed to deliver on its core promises while hurting far more Americans than it is helping.

One thing both parties should agree on is that an accessible and affordable healthcare system should be available to every American family, and I truly hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will work with us to find common ground on healthcare that truly delivers better care.

Millions of Americans have been suffering under President Obama’s healthcare law, and this past fall our Nation voted for a change. These hard-working Americans made it clear that fixing our healthcare must be a top priority for Congress and the President. This week, we are delivering on that promise of relief from ObamaCare.

Making America’s healthcare system more efficient and effective has always been an important and challenging endeavor for the public and private sector alike. President Obama and his congressional Democrats pushed Washington into the healthcare market, inflicting far greater uncertainty, cost, and disruption into the healthcare landscape than anyone ever imagined. By the latest count, it is necessary to untangle Americans from this unworkable, unpopular, and unaffordable law, hard-working families can expect to see stability in the skyrocketing healthcare costs and egregious penalties imposed on them by the ill-named ObamaCare concept of “affordable care.”

If you are young and healthy, ObamaCare has made it an easy choice to opt out of health coverage. But for those not so fortunate, for those who must have coverage, soaring healthcare costs are becoming a stunning reality. I have constituents in Wyoming who have written to me with worry and concern about their surging health insurance premiums.

I assume that my 99 other colleagues have received many letters like one I received from a family in Gillette, WY. They recently wrote me that under ObamaCare plans that they did not want and could not afford. Mike, we are small business owners in Gillette, WY. Being to kill the coal, oil and gas industries and his insurance fraud, we are stuck between a rock and a hard place. I just paid a $2400 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming ObamaCare bill. I can’t keep doing that. I am a real person with real problems created by my own government. HELP MIKE HELP.

That last line of this letter is especially moving: “HELP MIKE HELP.” This is why Republicans in Congress and the President have focused on doing just that—helping hard-working Americans like this family in Wyoming. They are looking to us to provide real leadership and rescue them from the failed ObamaCare law.

The previous administration seemed to focus only on protecting their self-described signature legislative achievement. Our focus must be to address ObamaCare’s failed promise of expensive web of regulations. For families like my constituents, the situation is grim and only getting worse by the day.

One of the most disturbing parts of this law is that Americans are now essentially being forced to pay more in taxes to fund the very healthcare law that is driving up the cost of their insurance premiums. Let me explain further. ObamaCare taxes have increased insurance premiums and limited options for patients and healthcare providers, including taxes on prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, health insurance premiums, and medical devices.

Unless Congress acts, Americans will be paying an estimated nearly $1 trillion in new taxes and penalties over the next 10 years. Individual and employer mandate penalties forced millions of hard-working families into expensive and terribly inadequate ObamaCare plans that they did not want and could not afford. ObamaCare’s crushing regulations mean smaller paychecks for families and prevent small businesses from expanding and hiring new workers.

For many States, the costs will cost you because of the mandate penalty. You can’t afford it, so you don’t get it, and then it costs you because of the mandate penalty.

What about the promise of lower healthcare costs that provided the foundation for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to pass this flawed bill? Even President Obama’s administration admitted that ObamaCare is failing to address costs, with average premiums rising by 25 percent for silver-level plans on the Federal exchange. That means families have to decide whether to purchase unaffordable insurance or pay a fine. In most cases, they are literally paying

The goal of the Republican healthcare bill will be to improve the affordability of health insurance, preserve access to care for Americans with preexisting conditions—yes, to preserve access to care for Americans with preexisting conditions and safeguard and strengthen Medicaid for those who truly need it. This will be accomplished by giving States more flexibility and ensuring that those who rely on this program won’t have the same mandates on them as well.

Most importantly, we will free the American people from the onerous ObamaCare mandates to purchase insurance that they don’t want and can’t afford.

The American people have endured a lot under ObamaCare—including every broken promise. We all remember President Obama’s promise to each and every American that if they liked their health plan, they could keep it. Well, Americans soon learned they couldn’t keep their plan or their doctor or any providers they chose. The main reason for this is because ObamaCare invaded the insurance marketplace and drastically reduced Americans’ choice of healthcare plans and with it the competition necessary to contain the cost. The health insurance market was no surprise that the President’s promise—if you like your plan, you can keep it—became the ultimate example of the unfulfilled and unattainable promises of ObamaCare.

For many Senators, especially from rural States like mine, the real impact of ObamaCare on our health insurance market is much more disturbing. Wyoming currently only has one health insurer in the individual market, both on and off the ObamaCare exchange. Let me say that again so there is no mistake. There is only one health insurer either on or off the ObamaCare exchange for all of Wyoming. One health insurer for all of Wyoming. Many States are experiencing a crisis, with only one insurer left standing since others have entirely abandoned the exchanges.

For residents of Wyoming and millions of other Americans, the Obama administration’s public relations campaign—on which it spent millions of taxpayer dollars—touted choice that ultimately became false advertising. This is the actual “choice” for millions of Americans: one and none—but the choice is clear. What I found mind-boggling was the President’s promise to each and every American that if they liked their health plan, they could keep it. The President’s promise now relies on this program won’t have the same mandates on them as well. Most importantly, we will free the American people from the onerous ObamaCare mandates to purchase insurance that they don’t want and can’t afford.

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more money for less control of their healthcare.

Last October’s dramatic premium increase was clearly on the minds of voters when they cast their ballots in the November election. Let me say that again. Last October’s dramatic premium increase was clearly on the minds of voters when they cast their ballots in the November election. There is trying to be some blame put on us for those increases, but that was before last November’s election.

This is the time for healthcare in America. We do not have the luxury of ignoring the crisis in health insurance markets and the crushing premiums faced by families across the country. Healthcare costs for my constituents in Wyoming continue to be among the highest in the Nation, with other States not far behind.

We must act now to rescue the millions of Americans who are suffering under ObamaCare in order to provide relief and help that have been betrayed by this law. Unwinding this failed law to make meaningful changes has not been easy, but Americans are relying on us to accomplish this task and keep the promise to rescue them from Obamacare’s taxes and mandates. We are not tied to any single idea. We hope our Democratic colleagues will ultimately join us in the single idea. We hope our Democratic colleagues will ultimately join us in making a limited set of changes to the Affordable Care Act—just the important stuff. What is important to Senator MCCONNELL? It seems to be the part of the Affordable Care Act that makes the health insurance system actually work, because the skinny bill would repeal the parts of the ACA that say everyone needs health insurance coverage. This is the individual mandate.

Republican leadership is telling their Members that if they vote for this skinny bill, they can hammer out the rest of the details in conference with the House of Representatives. But make no mistake—this isn’t a more moderate version of the Republicans’ ugly plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act. This isn’t compromise. In fact, this may be the worst idea they have had yet because if Senate Republicans vote down the Affordable Care Act, I vote down the individual mandate, they are getting rid of the linchpin of the insurance markets in this country. That is because this provision—the one that only the Republicans want to junk—is what keeps the price of insurance affordable for people with preexisting conditions.

Don’t just take my word for it. Independent experts have looked at what would happen if the Republicans repeal the individual mandate. Boy, it is not pretty. Just yesterday, the American Academy of Actuaries—their experts—their experts—they have been begging every Republican in the Senate to listen to them as well. People share their stories because they want to make a difference. These are the stories of families we represent. They are the reason we are here in the Senate. They are supposed to be our guiding light for the choices we make and the way we vote.

The President who voted yesterday to move forward with their effort to rip away Americans’ healthcare are not listening to the people they represent. Their vote was irresponsible. It was reckless. It was cruel. It was immoral. But more than that, this was a vote that is not who we are as a country.

Let’s be very clear about what is happening on the floor of the Senate right now. Fifty Republicans have voted to open debate on a series of bills, each of which would have devastating effects for healthcare in this country. Now the Republicans don’t know which of these bills will actually be the ones they will be asked to vote on. Only some of the bills have been analyzed by the number crunchers over at the Congressional Budget Office, to estimate exactly how many people would be kicked off insurance and how high premiums would go, but every version that the CBO did examine over the last few months tells us that tens of millions of people losing their coverage and costs skyrocketing for millions more.

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Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, first of all, I thank my friend, the Senator from Massachusetts, for her comments today and for her relentless willingness to take on this fight and so many other fights that are so important to our country.

I come to join her call to point out some of the challenges in this legislation but also to make an appeal to my friends on the other side that this does not have to be the way we go. I have been one who has acknowledged for many years there are challenges in the Affordable Care Act and that there are areas in which there could be common interests in finding solutions, but what we have before us now is a series of bad, better, and baddest choices. In effect, we have a series of options that ask: Do we want to pass legislation that would take 16 million Americans off healthcare? Do we want to pass legislation that would take 22 million people off healthcare? Do we want to pass legislation that would take 32 million Americans off health insurance?

What parts of these choices do my Republican colleagues really embrace? I think that in the 8 years I have been here we have seen some pieces of legislation that have been so unpopular, even before they are passed, than this litany of options from full repeal to skinny repeal and all of the variations in between.

As has been said by the Senator from Massachusetts and I know by the Senator from Washington State as well, the American people know this. That is why our phones are ringing in our offices and I know in our Senate Republican colleagues’ offices. People are saying do not pass this kind of legislation.

I think about the fact that in the last couple of weeks, the parents of a number of children and young adults who have serious medical disabilities have come to my office. In Virginia, we run a very skinny Medicaid Program. Frankly, it has not been very generous. Some of the individuals who have come to my office have waited 5, 6 years—one person has waited 10 years—to get a Medicaid waiver. These families, these children, in any of the proposals that have been put forward, would be the first to lose their coverage.

Family after family talked about the fact that, yes, both parents can work because they have a little bit of relief to take care of their disabled young adults in certain cases. In many cases, it is because the young adults can at least find someplace to do some productive work themselves. Yet, if they were to lose the Medicaid waiver, one of the parents would have to stop working, and the child would have to stop his form of employment. Net-net, it would be a loss not only to that family, but it would be a loss to our economy.

I mentioned that I used to be the Governor of Virginia. In 2016, Virginia received about $4 billion in Federal Medicaid funds—51 percent of the State’s funding for people covered by Medicaid. As I mentioned, we are ranked one of the skinniest programs in the country. Unfortunately, we rank about 47th, I believe, in terms of our payments. Yet, under any of these proposals, if the States are a tare of the $700 billion-plus of Medicaid cuts, are actually the States that have more generous programs. They are often States that are represented by Democratic Governors. In what way do these proposals help our Republican colleagues or, for that matter, their constituents?

We have heard, as well, that the American Cancer Society, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Hospital Association, and AARP—speaking of a who’s who of groups affiliated with healthcare—have come in and pleaded: Please, do not do this, this way—any one of these litany of proposals that we will be dealing with over the next few days.

From what I have heard on an individual basis—and I take enormous pride in the fact that in my time here—and sometimes it has even gotten me crosswise with the ranking member of the HELP Committee—I have tried to reach out on virtually every piece of legislation I have worked on to find a Republican partner. I actually got put in a timeout by a previous leader for doing too much of that.

What I hear from my Republican colleagues is, they do not want to own this. They know, in many ways, that this is walking the plank on what is both bad policy, bad politics, bad for their constituents, but the notion that some controversial proposals would dramatically affect those individuals with preexisting conditions. I have three daughters. One of my daughters has asthma. She has had it for 18 years. Another daughter has asthma and a very strange set of allergic reactions that have actually caused her to have been hospitalized 38 times in the last 40 months.

I am an extraordinarily lucky individual. I know that both through personal experience and because I had the resources, every time my two children got sick, I could make sure they got the medical attention they deserved. I cannot imagine talking to any Virginia or Washington family or Kentucky or Arkansas family who has a child with those same afflictions and trying to explain to them that my kids who have juvenile diabetes, asthma, and allergic reactions—through no fault of their own and that have caused this number of hospitalizations—have a right to healthcare and because I had the resources, every time my two children got sick, I could make sure they got the medical attention they deserved. I cannot imagine talking to any Virginia or Washington family or Kentucky or Arkansas family who has a child with those same afflictions and trying to explain to them that my kids who have juvenile diabetes, asthma, and allergic reactions—through no fault of their own and that have caused this number of hospitalizations—have a right to healthcare.

Our country is much better than this. We can figure out a way to get this right, but we are not going to get it right if we continue to have this ploy of one closed-door, cooked-up deal after another that is put forward, with no review and no real attempt to find a common solution.

I do not come to the floor that often, and I do not often talk about the medical needs of my family. This is for the sake of not only my kids who get the coverage they need and deserve but for...
all the kids who now get the coverage they did not have prior to the ACA and who have it now. It is the idea that insurance companies cannot discriminate against you because you have pre-existing conditions.

Let's see if we can make sure we maintain that commitment. In the greatest country in the world, as Senator McCain so eloquently put it yesterday, let's see if we can work through to a way that makes this body, once again, the greatest deliberative body in the world, if we can find that common ground that would allow us to put forward legislation that at the end of the day, we would all be proud of. That is a goal worth working on.

My hope is, over the coming days, we will find that common ground of Senators who will say we are going to take that path rather than the path we are on right now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I hope all Senators in this Chamber took the time to listen to the very wise words from the Senator from Virginia as to the fact that we are facing real issues in this country and that when we work together and go through the regular process of having committee hearings and no secret negotiations or backroom deals, we can lead this country in the way it should be led.

If today the Senator for coming to the floor and reminding us that is how we get things done in a way that America accepts it.

Yet we are not here after having had committee hearings or process or anything. We are here because of backroom deals that have brought us to this floor at a time when no one can accept the fact that all of the proposals are as a result, so far, of how many millions of people will lose insurance—22 million, and 15 million, and 24 million. That is what we are debating here, and that is a terrible debate. That is not what we should be talking about, but those are the proposals we are being offered.

Again, the Democrats are here. We are not giving up, and we are going to fight any effort to pass TrumpCare until the last possible moment because that will be the result. We are going to speak out for families nationwide—children, parents, patients, people with disabilities, and people who have called and tweeted and marched and filled our office halls. So many people are worried and, frankly, scared right now. These are families who are being kept in the dark by our Republican colleagues and who are being left to wonder what might happen to their healthcare, their financial security, and even their lives.

It is appalling the majority of Republicans who are willing to go along with this plan and vote to begin the process without even knowing what bill they will be debating. Yet, last night, the vast majority of the Senate did something unusual. It showed just how much agreement there actually can be among us, when 57 Republicans and Democrats agreed to reject a full TrumpCare replacement bill and sent a message that we agreed with Senator McCain in that we should stop letting the "bombastic loudmouths" drive our work and return to regular order and get back to work on policies that actually help the people we are here to represent.

There are responsible Republicans who disagree with the way the Republican legislative majority from Democrats and the public throughout this process, who think there should be an open, transparent process, with both sides at the table, and who want hearings and public debate rather than backroom deals and secret negotiations. I do as well, and I know many of my Democratic colleagues agree.

Now that it is clear that there is absolutely no path to full TrumpCare in the Senate, the reason for continuing this damaging, rushed, deeply partisan effort on the floor to jam just any bill through the Senate? Together we can do a lot better than the lowest common denominator bill that simply depends on Senate Republicans who will then sell out the American people.

How do we get this done right, and it is to stop what Senate Republican leaders are doing right now and start over.

So, once again, I ask my Republican colleagues to drop this partisan effort and join us at the table. Let's work together to improve families' healthcare, as so many of us truly want to do. My door is open, and I am ready to get started.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, no one should normalize what is happening on this Senate floor right now. We are all waiting for the white smoke to come down, the votes to be achieved. Why is it that the millions and millions of very scared people in my State will be able to see what is about to happen to their lives.

This isn't a game. People's lives are at stake. People's health is at stake. Yet, because this debate is now devoid of policy and substance and seemingly just about delivering a political victory to Republicans, we wait and we wait and we wait.

People's lives are at stake. All over the Capitol today there are parents of children with disabilities, many of whom rely on Medicaid in order to keep their children alive. I have spent a lot of time with them over the course of the last 6 months because, to them, the measure of a civilization is how it treats the most vulnerable, and their kids, with these deep disabilities, are among the most vulnerable. For much of the last 6 months I have seen anger in their eyes, the fear that their elected officials would choose to hurt their kids or to force their family to go bankrupt.

Yesterday, I saw something new in their eyes. I saw fear. I saw deep, debilitating fear because they sense that this is the last chance for something that they didn't think was possible—a piece of legislation passing the Senate and the House that would deliberately and intentionally hurt their children.

There is no way around it. It is not hyperbole. The House bill that we are debating right now guts Medicaid to the point where 15 million people—the most vulnerable Americans—would lose access to healthcare. It is very hard for people in this Chamber to understand because we all have really good healthcare. But when you have an expensive disease or your child has an expensive disease and you lose insurance, you can't pay for it. You can lose your house, you can sell your car, and you can exhaust your savings. For some families, that will cover 6 months' worth of expenses for their sick child. At some point, the patient dies if they don't have access to healthcare.

So people are scared. They are really scared. They are scared not just at the consequences of the House bill eventually passing, but they are also scared at the casualness with which this debate seems to treat their plight.

There are rumors now that, at the end of this process, we are going to vote on what has been described as a stripped-down, gutted version of the original Republican healthcare bill. It might have one or two provisions in it—maybe the elimination of the individual mandate, maybe the elimination of a few taxes. The intent would be to essentially punt the more comprehensive debate about what our healthcare system is going to look like to a conference committee.

I want to talk about that for a few moments and what the consequences of that are. First, I want to talk about what the consequences are, if that end is achieved. Why do my colleagues choose to run for the Senate if they are prepared to surrender the biggest policy decision they will likely face to the House of Representatives? Why go through all the trouble of running, of raising all the money, of getting all the votes to become a Senator if you aren't prepared to actually render an opinion and pass a bill on the biggest priority issue facing this country right now—the future of the American healthcare system?

If Republicans have been unable to come up with a bill that can get 50 votes. Why? Because they refuse to engage with Democrats. Now the solution...
is to punt by passing a stripped-down version of the bill, handing all power to the House of Representatives, surrendering to the House of Representatives. What is the point of being a U.S. Senator if you aren’t actually going to make policy, if you are just going to hand off policy to the House of Representatives? This is the U.S. Senate.

I disagreed with Senator McCaskill’s vote yesterday, but I heard the speech he gave. In that speech he said that this should be the place in which we make the big, tough decisions about the future of the American economy. The Senate will put an “out of business” sign on the outside of this Chamber if we pass a scaled-down version of this bill that admits we can’t come to a conclusion.

What is the point of being a Senator if you just hand this debate over to the House of Representatives? By the way, that is what will happen. If the Senate goes to conference with the House of Representatives, it means that there is only the House bill in that conference—and that is what will happen if a stripped-down version of this bill goes into conference and the House has a comprehensive reform bill—the House bill will be the only one that goes to conference committee, and the House bill will become law. The House bill will survive. It may have some small cosmetic amendments to it, but all of the power will be given to the House of Representatives in those negotiations because there is only one idea that will be present.

Let’s go back for a moment and remember what was in that House bill that so many of my Republican colleagues told me was deeply objectionable to them and would never get a vote on the Senate floor. Twenty-three million people will lose insurance. Rates will go up by 15 to 20 percent. People with preexisting conditions in most States likely will lose all protections for them. People with these plans will not have to cover maternity care, mental illness, or addiction any longer. Medicaid will be gone as we know it. My small State, with an $8 billion Medicaid program, will have a $3 billion cut. Children will lose their ability to stay alive because they lose their healthcare insurance. Seniors in nursing homes will be put out on the street. That is not hyperbole. That is real. That is what happens when you kick 23 million people off of insurance. The full or some version of it would emerge from the conference committee because the Senate would have defaulted to it by going to conference with nothing. But that is just the long-term consequence. The short-term consequence is that the scaled-down bill reportedly will include an elimination of the individual mandate. Insurance markets will fall apart.

Everybody here knows, whether you are a Republican or a Democrat, that the only way you guarantee that people get priced the same if they are sick or not sick is to require people to buy insurance when they are not sick. In fact, the Republicans know that because in their bill that they wrote behind closed doors, they included an individual mandate. They did. It was designed in a different way. They said that if you don’t buy insurance, you will be penalized by being locked out of the insurance market for 6 months. But they had a penalty for people who don’t buy insurance, just like the Affordable Care Act has a penalty. Republicans and Democrats understand that in order for the insurance markets to work, you need to encourage people to buy insurance when they are healthy and penalize them if they don’t. The Republican bill does that, just like the Affordable Care Act does that.

If you pass a bill that removes that mandate, then every insurance adjuster, every actuary who works for a major healthcare insurance company, will tell you that the markets will crater because individuals won’t buy insurance. It will be starvation pricing. They said that they can’t be charged any more. Healthy people will not buy insurance. Rates will go up. Insurers will flee the markets. The entire thing collapses.

That is the short-term consequence of telegraphing to the insurance companies that you are getting rid of the individual mandate. Even if that is not the final result, that telegraph signal, at a point where insurers are already rethinking the markets because of the sabotage campaign that President Trump has undertaken, would be catastrophic.

This is not a game. These stakes are big. The casualness with which people are approaching this debate is scary. It is not too late. We don’t have a potential real jeopardy. We can do better. We owe it to our democracy to go through the regular order, as Senator McCain urged us to do, and to make sure that we fulfill our promise, our oath that we will uphold the Constitution and do what is right for the American people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator’s time has expired.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I yield such time as the Senator from Kentucky needs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as a physician and an eye surgeon, I have seen Obamacare up close, and it is not working for Americans.

If you look across the country and say “Is it working?” you find that Obamacare premiums have doubled for those in the individual marketplace in just a few short years. You find that the Obamacare insurance mandates have caused 4.7 million people to lose the insurance they chose. If you like your doctor, you can keep him or her—that was the promise, and it was a lie. Some 4.7 million people were told that they couldn’t choose the insurance they want and couldn’t choose their doctor.

It is estimated that there are 800,000 fewer jobs because of Obamacare. How does that happen? Well, if you work 32 hours a week and your employer has to provide insurance at 30 hours, guess what happens. Some people get moved to 28 hours. You add up all those hours, and millions of people are working fewer hours.

Who are the people who got shafted by Obamacare? Often, working-class people. In my State, there are 25,000 people who pay a fine because they can’t afford Obamacare. These 25,000 people make less than $25,000 a year. They are our working class.

Obamacare punishes them and says: You have to pay a fine.

They say: I wish I had insurance, but Obamacare added all these mandates, things that I can’t afford. Sure enough, you want to have everything under the Sun covered by your insurance, but when you mandate that, you elevate the price of insurance. So what has happened? Young, healthy people have lost their insurance and don’t buy insurance in droves.

Obamacare says: You can come back any time after you are sick and buy your insurance.
That sounds good, but what it leads to is the death spiral of ObamaCare. ObamaCare premiums have doubled because the young, healthy people are saying it costs too much and the sicker people are the only ones left in insurance.

This is what happens when you let the government get involved in the marketplace. If you allow the marketplace to work—what is the one universal feature of capitalism? You get the lowest amount of cost and the most amount distributed to the most amount of people.

Right now under ObamaCare, 50 percent of America has one choice. What does that mean? A monopoly. Who wants the insurance company to have a monopoly? When the insurance companies have monopolies, the prices get doubled.

There are now some parts of our country that have no choice in the individual market. If you are a plumber or a waiter or a server, you have to buy insurance in the individual market. In many places in America, you have no choice. In half of America, if you buy insurance by yourself, if you are not part of a large group, in half of America you have no choice—a monopoly and monopoly prices.

In my State alone, 50,000 Kentuckians have to pay a tax. They have to pay a fine because they can’t afford ObamaCare. They are regular working people, and they do work and they do pay taxes. They pay a fine. We pay $16 million in fines in just my State. Across America, this is happening.

How did it become an American sort of legislation or plan to force people to buy stuff they don’t want and then to extract money out of their paycheck if they don’t do what you tell them?

Ultimately, Americans should remember that ObamaCare is predicated on force and coercion. ObamaCare dictates that everyone in America has to purchase insurance and makes you pay a fine if you don’t get what the politicians tell you you must get.

President Obama basically told you that you were too stupid to make your own choices. These people who want to dictate to you are elitists. They think they know better than you what kind of insurance you should get. If you don’t buy the insurance they dictate, they will fine you. If you don’t pay the fine, they will jail you. How is that consistent with the American ideal of freedom?

This debate is about more than actuarial tables. We get dragged down into this debate, and we think it is all this healthcare wonkiness, this and that. It is about freedom of choice. It is about whether you as an American can make the choice whether you want insurance or don’t want insurance, whether you want insurance that is really expensive or not.

They put a special tax in there if you have good insurance. First they tell you what kind of insurance to buy, and then they tell you that your insurance is too good. If you are in a union or you are an executive and you have great insurance, ObamaCare tells you they are going to tax you because your insurance is too good. These busybodies think they know everything about what you want. They are going to dictate to us what insurance you can get, and then when you buy it, they are going to tell you that you have too much, so you have to pay a tax. That isn’t the American way.

Today we will vote on a bill we have voted on 2 years ago. The Senate itself voted on this 2 years ago. It is the identical bill. We are going to vote on a bill we voted on 2 years ago. I hope everybody who voted for it before will vote for it again. It is what we call a clean repeal. It is not cluttered with insurance-company bailouts. It is not cluttered with this and that, new Federal regulations. It is just trying to repeal ObamaCare.

While it is a clean repeal, it is only a partial repeal? It is only a partial repeal because we have these arcane Senate rules that say we can’t repeal the whole thing. Because we are only repealing part of it, ObamaCare will remain. Even if we are successful with this, the next half of ObamaCare remains. Bad things remain. All of the mandates on what you have to purchase on your insurance will remain. That doesn’t mean we shouldn’t do this.

The other side does not want to help. The other side has never met a regulation they want to repeal and has never met a tax they want to lower. So if you want to get rid of the taxes, it has to be done today.

People say: Well, this doesn’t have the replacement. Well, sure we should replace ObamaCare. I have been advocating that from the beginning. But we have to figure out what that replacement is. We don’t want to be forced into a bipartisan compromise if we repeal it. If we do not repeal it today, there is no impetus from either side to work on replacing it. If you repeal it, even the other side will say: Oh, my goodness, we have to do something because they repealed these subsidies in this Medicaid expansion. They will say: We will work with you now. But everything else is false.

They will not work on repealing one regulation after the other. They have said: Enough is enough. My government shouldn’t be telling me what I can buy and what I cannot buy. My government should not tell me which doctor I can choose and which doctor I have to leave behind. The government should not be involved in my healthcare business. I want to be left alone. The right to privacy, the right to be left alone is a fundamental right of Americans. That is what this is all about.

It is about freedom of choice. It is not about actuarial tables. It is not about the Federal Government designing a perfect healthcare system. The Federal Government cannot deliver the mail. They lose a billion dollars a quarter delivering your mail. Do you want them in charge of your doctor? Do you want them in charge of your insurance? This is the one chance we get today. We will have a chance to repeal ObamaCare. We will have a chance to fulfill our promise to the American voters.

There is a partisan divide. Democrats are for keeping it; Republicans are for repealing it. But Republicans made a promise. We made a promise to the American people to repeal it. There may be some Republicans today who say: I am not voting to repeal any longer; things have changed. The problem is that we are not going to get to do this. If this repeal fails, then it is a partial repeal. The other thing about this repeal is that there is a 2-year window in which part of the repeal doesn’t take place for 2 years. Over those 2 years, my guess is that we will have impetus from both sides to actually begin to talk. Currently, there are 27 million people in America without insurance. From all the talk, you would think that ObamaCare has covered everyone, and somehow Republicans are against that.

Count me as one Republican who wants to figure out how we insure the 27 million who don’t have insurance. Of the 27 million people who don’t have insurance under ObamaCare, half of them don’t buy insurance because it is too expensive. Why is it too expensive? Because ObamaCare dictates about 15 different things that every insurance policy has to have: Vision, hearing, pregnancy—you name it; it is all on there. Everyone wants it. If you put it on every insurance policy, not everybody is going to be able to afford it. You force people out of the market. So 27 million people don’t have insurance, and half say they can’t get it because it is too expensive.

Where is the problem in insurance? If you are here today visiting in Washington, and you work for Toyota or Ford or General Motors or any big American company—any big corporation in our country—if you work for them, my guess is that you are not worried about your wife getting sick and they fire you from your job or raise your rates. What happens when you have group insurance is, if your family member gets sick, you don’t lose your job. Your rates really don’t change, and you continue on with your life. You still have the tragedy to deal with of someone in
your family being sick. But if you have group insurance, it seems to work in our country.

What we are talking about is the individual insurance market. We are talking about the plumber, the pest controller, the farmer—people who are in a small business. Either they have a few employees or it is just them. That is what we are talking about. It is horribly broken. I don’t wish it on any American. I wish what happened in America to buy any insurance in the individual market. In fact, what I am proposing would so disrupt the individual market that maybe everyone would leave. I am trying to give an exit ramp to everyone in the individual market to get out of the individual market because the individual market is a terrible place to be.

If you are a farmer in America and you buy insurance for you and your wife, and your wife gets breast cancer, you are not only deathly afraid for her health care, you are deathly afraid for your income. The insurance rates will be doubled, tripled, or you will be dropped. I don’t care if you are a Republican, Independent, or a Democrat. People in the individual market do worry. We have had people here where people are going to lose their health insurance. The individual market is a terrible place to be.

So what should we do? Should we give hundreds of billions of dollars to the insurance company and say: Please insure these people and make sure they get sick, their rates are based on them and their family. Why don’t we let them join together? There are probably a million farmers in the Farm Bureau throughout the American Farm Bureau. What if the American Farm Bureau had an association and one person negotiated for them? I don’t think we can overstate the negotiating value of a group.

In China recently, they negotiated for patented medicines, and they reduced the price by 67 percent. Groups can negotiate prices down. This is a free market reform. This is collective bargaining for consumers. I can’t see why either side—I am still hopeful, no matter where this goes, that at some point in time, when partisan fervor dies down, we can go to the other side and say: What’s so wrong with collective bargaining? I thought you were for collective bargaining for labor. Why wouldn’t you be for collective bargaining for consumers? Let the consumers band together. AARP has 33 million people. What if one person negotiated the rate for their insurance and their drugs? My guess is that they would have the lowest prices in the world, and more people would want to join AARP. What if the credit unions—there are about 20 million people in credit unions, maybe more, across the United States. What if you could join your credit union and became part of a national association to buy your insurance? The leverage of 20 million people would be maybe 40, 50 times bigger than America’s biggest corporation.

Right now, if you are General Motors and you are a big corporation, you would say, ‘I have too high an association across State lines and buy your insurance as part of a group. What would that mean? In my State, the Farm Bureau has 33,000 people. But when you go to the Farm Bureau to buy your insurance, you get an individual policy. A farmer, his wife, and their family get a policy. It is just them. They are not really protected by the group. They don’t get the leverage of price, and they are not protected. If they fall sick, their rates are based on them and their family. Why don’t we let them join together? There are probably a million farmers in the Farm Bureau throughout the American Farm Bureau. What if the American Farm Bureau had an association and one person negotiated for them? I don’t think we can overstate the negotiating value of a group.

Some say that we need more Medicaid money to fight the drug problem. I worry that more Medicaid trips to the drug store will actually make the drug problem—much of the dependency is coming from OxyContin, which the drug company says was not addictive, but everyone got put on OxyContin because it supposedly wasn’t addictive. A lot of our heroin and OxyContin problem came out of going to the doctor.

If we were to get everyone out of the individual market into group insurance, there would be some people left who would be a very small number of people, and we would know after a year or two. Let’s see what it is. We already have a safety net. The other side is acting as if there is no safety net. We have had a safety net for decades after decades of the Federal Government saying that you are allowed to do what you want. You are allowed to collectively bargain as consumers.

I think there is every chance that we could fix a lot of the market. Would we have a government? Yes. I mean, we have terrible tragedies. I spent my adult care in medicine. I have seen the terrible tragedies, the terrible disabilities, the terrible neurologic disorders people are born with and have to live their lives with. Those exceptions will be treated and are treated.

Frankly, one of the misunderstandings of this debate is that any Republican is up here talking about trying to go out of business. Those who are disabled, can’t work, and do have to have care. That is traditional Medicaid. They will continue to be cared for. Under this, we are talking only about able-bodied people. Should able-bodied people—people who walk around, hop out of their truck—should they be working? Should they be providing for their health insurance? Yes. Can there be a transition zone? Yes. We have transition programs between unemployment and employment. We shouldn’t have people permanently unemployed—people permanently on benefits who don’t work or won’t work. There should be work requirements. I am not afraid to say that every able-bodied person on Medicaid ought to work. There should be a work requirement. I meet many people on both sides of the aisle who are for that.

I don’t say they should work as punishment. I think everyone in America should work as a reward. I think work is a reward. I don’t care whether you are from the lowest job on the totem pole to the top, to the chief executive. Work is where you get self-esteem. No one can give you self-esteem. Your self-esteem comes from work. I think we are wrong. In fact, I think what we have done—in some cases, we now have multigenerational dependency on government, and they are so distraught by an inability to take care of itself that it compounds the drug problem that we have.

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Frankly, one of the misunderstandings of this debate is that any Republican is up here talking about trying to go out of business. Those who are disabled, can’t work, and do have to have care. That is traditional Medicaid. They will continue to be cared for. Under this, we are talking only about able-bodied people. Should able-bodied people—people who walk around, hop out of their truck—should they be working? Should they be providing for their health insurance? Yes. Can there be a transition zone? Yes. We have transition programs between unemployment and employment. We shouldn’t have people permanently unemployed—people permanently on benefits who don’t work or won’t work. There should be work requirements. I am not afraid to say that every able-bodied person on Medicaid ought to work. There should be a work requirement. I meet many people on both sides of the aisle who are for that.

I don’t say they should work as punishment. I think everyone in America should work as a reward. I think work is a reward. I don’t care whether you are from the lowest job on the totem pole to the top, to the chief executive. Work is where you get self-esteem. No one can give you self-esteem. Your self-esteem comes from work. I think we are wrong. In fact, I think what we have done—in some cases, we now have multigenerational dependency on government, and they are so distraught by an inability to take care of itself that it compounds the drug problem that we have.
What is the fundamental deceit of ObamaCare? This is the fundamental problem of all government, but the fundamental deceit of ObamaCare is this: They said that everyone is going to get free healthcare. Everyone is going to have Medicaid, you don’t have to pay for it, and the States don’t have to pay for it. We are going to have the Federal Government pay for it. But the problem is the Federal Government can’t pay for most of the things we are already doing—Medicaid—we can’t pay for—Medicare we were short of money for. We already have Social Security that we are short of money for. What do we do? We borrow the money. Our deficit this year will be $500 billion. Our deficit is projected next year to be $3 trillion. That is the real question. It isn’t, do you want to help people? Is it, how are you going to pay for it? If this were done at the State level, what would happen? If the State of Kentucky wants to keep the expansion—we have expanded Medicaid to 450,000 people. The question should be, should we double the State income tax in Kentucky? If that went to the State legislature, they have to balance competing concerns. If we double the State income tax next to Tennessee, which has no State tax to pay for it—we live right next to Tennessee, which has no State income tax—would we possibly lose existing businesses or existing jobs or would we encourage new businesses not to come to Kentucky? That would be a valid debate. We want to help people, but we want to look at the ramifications from Washington, it is said that there are no ramifications because everything goes to the debt. Everything just piles up. We have $20 trillion in debt. Whose fault is it? Both parties. Under George Bush, the debt went from $10 trillion to $20 trillion. What are the ramifications of that? We all interface with the healthcare system. For example, no more middle-class tax credits for healthcare—that is something that is critically important to the millions of middle-class folks who are walking on an economic tightrope every month, balancing their food costs against their fuel costs, their fuel costs against their medical costs. I was struck this morning when I heard that, under this repeal approach, there is not going to be any real pain, that everything is just put off. Make no mistake about it. The pain for our families under this repeal measure is going to start right away. Nobody says they are going to be part of a marketplace If they believe it is not going to be free insurance choices in the private marketplace under this scheme, I would like to repeat that so people understand that, as to this idea that there is really no pain here and that nothing starts for a long time, the Congressional Budget Office—our non-partisan, impartial umpire—doesn’t agree with that. They said just last week that half of the country will have zero insurance choices in the private marketplace under this scheme. That goes up to 75 percent of Americans with no options in later years. So my view is that this is just legislative malpractice, first because of the pain and harm it is going to cause so many Americans. The Congressional Budget Office said that the kind of misery is going to kick in quickly.

Second—and I don’t think this has been discussed on the floor—this walks back months and months of Republican promises. The American people were told again and again that repeal and replace were going to be directly linked. The President said it multiple times. Then he went over the top and told people that they were going to have lower costs and better coverage. I was happy to yield to my friend from Oregon yield for a question?

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Mr. WYDEN. My colleague is being logical, and heaven forbid that logic should be introduced into this, because we would automatically assume that on a subject—we are talking about one-sixth of the American economy—the Senate Finance Committee would have hearings. There have been no hearings.

Mr. SANDERS. No hearings?

Mr. WYDEN. None.

Mr. SANDERS. There have been no hearings on a bill that impacts one-sixth of the American economy and every single American.

Mr. WYDEN. Let me ask my friend from Oregon this. Obviously, before my Republican colleagues would go forward on radical legislation like this that would throw some 32 million Americans off of the health insurance they have, they have obviously consulted with doctors and hospitals to get their views as to the impact this legislation would have on patients and hospitals all over America.

What kind of testimony did the doctors make on this bill or the hospital administrators make?

Mr. WYDEN. I can tell my colleagues that Senator MURRAY and I, the two of us—the ranking member on the Budget Committee and I—have actually made public what the overwhelming opposition from providers on this. So, in effect, providers and patients are standing together in opposition to this.

Mr. SANDERS. Right, so if my understanding is correct—and I am quite sure it is—the American Medical Association, which is not one of the great progressive groups in America but the group that represents the physicians in this country, A, they have not been able to make testimony. But, B, what is the impact of this legislation? What do the doctors of America feel about this important legislation?

Mr. WYDEN. They are opposed, as I have indicated. I think it is particularly important to see this provider-patient meeting at this time is saying the patients come first and this bill hurts patients.

Mr. SANDERS. But we have not heard yet from one doctor making public testimony at a hearing.

Mr. WYDEN. That is correct.

Mr. SANDERS. In other words, this bill is not saying to doctors: What will this mean to your patients? What happens if 32 million people are thrown off of Medicaid? How many of them will get sick? How many of them will die?

No testimony.

How about hospitals? What kind of testimony have we heard from hospital administrators in rural America about the impact of this legislation on rural hospitals in Vermont and rural hospitals in Oregon?

Mr. WYDEN. What I can tell my colleagues is that, again, those hospitals have not been in front of the Finance Committee.

One of the things I appreciate about so many colleagues on this side of the aisle is that they said: Well, if we are not going to hear from these providers, like the hospitals, in the committee, we are going to go out to the country and listen to them. I have had townhall meetings throughout rural Oregon, as my colleague Senator MERKLEY has had. The rural hospitals, which are the economic engines of so many rural communities, are opposed to this legislation.

Mr. SANDERS. Let me ask my friend from Oregon: What kind of testimony did we hear yesterday about the impact of this legislation on older working people, in terms of what it might mean in increased premiums? Have we heard much discussion? Has the AARP, which is strongly opposed to this legislation, been able to come forward at a public hearing and express their point of view?

Mr. WYDEN. The AARP has also not been in front of the Senate Finance Committee. I want to say again that my friend Senator MURRAY and I are not going to be in front of the Senate Finance Committee, where we ought to actually hear testimony in line with the regular order, we are going to go out to the country and listen to AARP and others who have made representations. They are overwhelmingly opposed to this because people between 55 and 64 would pay five times as much as younger people, and they would get fewer tax credits.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, would my colleague please repeat that. I think it is important for older Americans to hear this.

We had a candidate running for President of the United States by the name of Donald Trump, and he ran all over this country and said he was going to stand up for working families and he was going to stand up for the working class of this country.

Please repeat what this legislation would do to working families, would my friend from Oregon describe what happens to a 65-year-old worker in Vermont or in Oregon. What kind of premium increases might he or she see?

Mr. WYDEN. It is hundreds and hundreds of dollars and, in a number of instances, more. The reality is that I think they are going to have a lot of trouble getting coverage at all. The reality is, when you pour gasoline on the fires of uncertainty—and this is particularly important right now as plans are thinking about signing up—that makes it much more likely you aren't going to have plans at all. The Congressional Budget Office has also found that the Paul legislation makes that worse.

Mr. SANDERS. Now, while the AARP and other senior groups have not been able to testify, would my friend from Oregon tell us what their views are on this particular legislation because of its impact on older workers and seniors in general?

Mr. WYDEN. While the senior groups have not been able to come before the Finance Committee to discuss this issue, I can say—and I have been working with a number of these organizations since my days with the Gray Panthers—that they are overwhelmingly opposed to this. I think, in particular, this idea that we heard from the Congressional Budget Office last week—that half of the country will have zero insurance choices in the private market—a cruel rollback of the Medicaid program, and that it goes up—will just cause even more seniors to be against it.

Mr. SANDERS. But it is not only older workers because we have as an aging population more and more people who are spending years in nursing homes. Would my friend from Oregon describe what happens under this legislation if somebody has a mom or a dad in a nursing home, struggling with Alzheimer's or some other terrible illness?

Mr. WYDEN. Under this legislation, you would have a massive rollback of the Medicaid Program. So for all of those older people who scrimped and saved all of their lives—they didn't take that vacation; they tried to make sure they could send their kids—Medicaid picks up the costs of two out of three nursing home beds in America. This legislation would produce a massive rollback of the Medicaid Program, and I believe so many older people are thinking about signing up for long-term care insurance choices in the private marketplace under this repeal scheme, and I think it is important that we do that.

Mr. SANDERS. And a massive cut in Medicaid would be devastating to those families who have loved ones in nursing homes.

Mr. WYDEN. That is correct.

Mr. SANDERS. And a massive cut in Medicaid would be devastating to those families who have loved ones in nursing homes.

Mr. WYDEN. That is correct. It would be accompanied with further misery because it would leave the millions suffering from opioid addiction wondering where to turn for coverage as a result of this massive rollback in Medicaid coverage under this amendment.

Mr. SANDERS. I have asked my colleague from Oregon a little bit about some of the cruel and devastating impacts this legislation would have, but we have to be honest and acknowledge that there are some beneficiaries in this legislation as well.

Would my friend describe the beneficiaries in the House bill, in particular? While millions were thrown off of Medicaid, while 23 million people lost their health insurance, some people actually did gain from this bill, and we have to acknowledge that; is that true?

Mr. WYDEN. Yes, the fortunate few would benefit under the House bill. There is no question about it.

To give my colleagues an idea of how regressive those efforts are, they would actually be retroactive. So this idea that these tax cuts for the well-to-do within some way going to create jobs is just absurd. They are made retroactive. So they aren't going to be creating jobs going forward.
Mr. SANDERS. Correct me if I am wrong, but my recollection is that in the House bill there were $300 billion in tax breaks going to the top 1 percent at exactly the same time that 23 million Americans were thrown off of their health insurance—right correct?

Mr. WYDEN. A few hundred families benefit so greatly that it could actually cover Medicaid expansion in several States.

Ms. STABENOW. Will the distinguished Senator from Oregon allow me a question?

This is a very, very important debate. On the point that my colleague just made, isn’t it correct that there is nothing in any of these versions that lowers the cost of prescription drugs, which is the No. 1 issue for people in this country, as it relates to healthcare, or for businesses? I hear it all the time. There is nothing in here to lower our cost of prescription drugs, but there are tax cuts in here for the prescription drug companies. Is that correct?

Mr. WYDEN. That is correct. The special interests get very, very substantial tax breaks. Those working-class people lose tax credits, so they actually lose, and, in effect, those dollars can be used for the tax cuts for the fortunate.

Ms. STABENOW. There is nothing to go further to use the buying power with Medicare to negotiate prescription drugs or to allow, with safe FDA approval, for people in Michigan to be able to drive across a bridge to Windsor and buy those very same prescription drugs for 40 percent less. There is nothing in there about that, is that correct?

Mr. WYDEN. There is nothing that would give Medicare bargaining power to make sure seniors get a better deal. There is nothing in any of these versions that correct?

Mr. SANDERS. If I could, let me ask my colleague—very good points. Instead of doing these tax-cut provisions for the wealthiest and for the pharmaceutical companies that take dollars away, actually doing the right thing on healthcare, I think it has created a better quality of life—Medicaid, as well.

There is a great success story in Michigan that I would share on the Medicaid front. Of course, three out of five Michigan seniors in nursing homes and half of the very seniors who need prescription drugs for 40 percent less. There is nothing in there about that, is that correct?

Mr. WYDEN. That is correct.

Mr. SANDERS. I have a meeting that I have to get to. I want to summarize this. My friends from Oregon and Michigan can correct me if I am wrong. We are looking at a bill that came from the House and various proposals being introduced in the Senate, which essentially says that we are going to, over 20 million Americans off of the health insurance they currently have. What I haven’t heard much discussion about is what happens to someone who today has health insurance and is struggling with cancer, maybe getting chemotherapy or radiation therapy right now. What happens to those people when their health insurance is simply cut?

Mr. WYDEN. Two points are raised by my colleague—very good points. First, in the immediate, those people will go to the hospital emergency room, which means that, once again, we are turning back the clock toward the minimal-wage working people. We are actually saving money.

Ninety-seven percent of our children can now see a doctor in Michigan. That is great. They have cut in half the number of people who walk into the emergency room who can’t pay. We all pay if somebody walks in and gets the most expensive treatment through the emergency room.

The State of Michigan will save $432 million in taxpayer money next year because they are focusing on children going to a doctor, people getting preventive care, not using the emergency room. It saves money.

Instead of doing these tax-cut provisions for the wealthiest and for the pharmaceutical companies that take dollars away, actually doing the right thing on health care, I think it has created a great success story for saving taxpayer dollars.

Mr. WYDEN. I think my colleague is making an important point, as well as my friend from Vermont. Part of the reason that many Republicans want these tax cuts for the fortunate few is arcane to people, pretty complicated. What they really want to do is get them now, to put them in the budget baseline in order to open up the opportunity when tax reform comes along to have even more tax breaks for the fortunate few. So, yes, Medicare and Medicaid are going to face real challenges.

In fact, as my colleagues know, the Affordable Care Act had a modest additional tax on people who earn over $250,000 a year, and it was to go just to Medicare. You see your paycheck—every paycheck is on Medicaid. The Medicare tax is right on it. The only people under these Republican plans who would get the Medicare tax cut would be couples who make over $250,000 a year.

When my colleague from Vermont asks “What does this mean for Medicare?” it isn’t necessarily about some bill far off in the future. It is about right now. By the way, taking that money away—the money that comes just from the modest additional tax on couples who make over $250,000 a year, reduces Medicare solvency by several years. It actually reduces Medicare solvency, which breaks yet another Trump promise not to do anything to injure Medicare.
Ms. STABENOW. If I might ask one final question, would my colleague agree that rather than this approach, in which we don’t even know, moment to moment, what we are voting on here—unlike what we did in the Finance Committee in 2009, where there were the Finance Committee and the HELP Committee before we even voted on anything on the Affordable Care Act. Rather than that process, we are looking at a situation where everything coming before us will take place in healthcare for tens of millions of people and raise costs on everyone. Would my colleague agree that it would be better to stop this process and go back to a bipartisan effort to lower costs and increase healthcare coverage? Would my colleague agree, as well, that we know that there are people paying too much for copays and premiums, and that needs to be addressed?

In the private marketplace, there is not enough competition among insurance companies. In some places, there are none in the individual market. We need to work together to lower costs, starting with prescription drugs, and to also continue to increase the opportunity for people to get healthcare coverage. That is what we ought to be doing together and doing it in a thoughtful way and getting input and actually solving the real problems.

Mr. WYDEN. My colleague has described Senator MCCASKILL’s wonderful idea when she says: Look, bipartisanship is not about taking each other’s lousy ideas. Bipartisanship is about both sides getting together, having hearings, listening to all alternatives and ideas, and often coming up with something no one has thought of.

My colleague knows a lot about bipartisanship in healthcare because my colleague was part of our effort in 2008 when she was Senator. Senator KAINE, with reinsurance; Senator SANDERS from Vermont, Senator SANDERS. Senator KAINE, with reinsurance; Senator McCaskill with a fine idea to help those Republicans are still serving in the Senate today. We know that is a better path.

To wrap up this portion of the debate, I wish to say to my colleagues that the best way to proceed is with a kind of two-part effort. The first is to stabilize the private insurance market.

We have a number of our colleagues—Senator SHAHEEN, with her effort to make sure people can get some help when they have deductibles and copayments; our colleague from Virginia, Senator Kaine, with reinsurance; Senator McCaskill with a fine idea to help areas that are bare in terms of no coverage. We have to move to stabilize the private market quickly because at the end of August, the plans are essentially signing contracts for premiums for 2018.

My colleague is absolutely right. We ought to knock off this partisan war—or the high-way approach, move on a bipartisan basis to take steps to improve the Affordable Care Act now after we have hearings, input, and the opportunity to have people in front of the committees of jurisdiction. After that, then move to the broader array of issues, starting with the immediate challenge my colleague has led on, which is clamping down on the cost of pharmaceuticals. You take steps to stabilize the market immediately, and then you move again in a bipartisan way about at every community meeting, which is that their Social Security checks, the benefits they get, aren’t coming close to keeping up with the rise in the cost of prescriptions.

I thank my colleague for her very helpful questions and our colleague from Vermont, Senator Sanders.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I don’t need to tell anyone why we are here. We are here because ObamaCare is fundamentally broken. That is clear. It is evident. Everybody knows that.

A combination of soaring premiums and rapidly decreasing insurer participation has left the law’s centerpiece—the healthcare exchanges—literally on the brink of collapse. Insurers are fleeing. Nationwide, 141 insurers have registered to offer plans on the exchanges in 2018. We owe the American people a nearly 30-percent drop from 2017, and that is on top of a 20-percent drop from 2016 to 2017.

If the trend of the past 2 years continues, the final number of insurers offering plans on the exchanges in 2018 is likely to be roughly half the number that offered plans in 2016—a year ago. At least 40 counties around the country are likely to have no ObamaCare insurer in 2018 and another 1,300-plus counties are only likely to have just one choice of insurer.

President Obama once said that shopping on the exchanges would be like buying a TV on Amazon. For a lot of people next year, it is going to be like shopping for a TV on Amazon, if Amazon only offered one brand of TV. Of course, for some people it is going to be like shopping for a TV on Amazon only to discover that Amazon has no TVs at all.

Another thing ObamaCare was supposed to do was make health insurance more affordable. That hasn’t worked too well. Premiums on the exchanges have soared and soared again. Between 2013 and 2017, the average individual market monthly premium in the healthcare.gov states increased by 105 percent. How many families in this country can afford to have their health insurance premium more than double in just 5 years—and there is no end in sight.

Here are some of the premium hikes insurers are proposing for 2018:

In Maryland, one insurer has proposed an average premium increase of 52 percent; an Iowa insurer is seeking an average 43.5-percent premium increase; a North Carolina insurer is pursuing an average 22.9-percent hike; a Virginia insurer is looking for an average rate increase of 38 percent; a Delaware insurer is looking for an average rate increase of 55 percent. The insurer is seeking an average rate hike of 40 percent; and in New Mexico, one insurer is seeking a rate increase of nearly 80 percent.

Again, those are rate hikes for just 1 year. That is after years of dramatic premium increases on the exchanges. Suffering under ObamaCare isn’t limited to high premiums and decreasing choices. There are the Americans who have lost their healthcare plans, and the Americans who have lost access to the doctors they liked, the huge deductibles that left some Americans unable to use their insurance, and the ObamaCare tax hikes that have hurt small businesses and driven up the cost of health insurance.

ObamaCare has failed. Americans are suffering. Doing nothing is not an option. Yesterday we moved forward to debate legislation to provide relief to the millions of Americans who have been harmed by ObamaCare. Senator Sanders offers anything to have a full debate and give people a chance to help shape the final bill.

I hope that at the end of the week, we will be able to pass a strong bill to start undoing the harm ObamaCare has caused to our healthcare system. We owe the American people nothing less. We made a commitment to the American people; if they elected us, we would do everything we could to give them relief from ObamaCare. It is time to make good on that promise.

Chances to do away with damaging government programs don’t come around every day. Once you give the government power, it can be pretty hard to wrest it away. This week, we have a chance to start undoing a really bad government program. We need to take it. If we don’t act to help the American people, no one will. Democrats have made it clear that if they were in power, they would be doubling down on ObamaCare’s failures.

The head of the Democratic Party in the U.S. Senate openly stated single-payer healthcare is on the table for Democrats. A number of colleagues on the Senate side have proposed that legislation. An analysis of our Democratic colleague’s single-payer plan estimated that it would cost $32 trillion over 10 years. Well, that would require a tax hike so staggering the Washington Post pointed out that even the Senator who proposed it—an avowed Socialist—didn’t offer anything close to what would be needed to pay for it.

We are the only hope Americans have of getting out of under ObamaCare’s burdens. This week, we have a chance to finally provide them with relief. I heard my colleagues get up and talk about the impact the proposed legislation that is before us.
would have on people across this country and American workers. I have to say, I talked to a lot of rank-and-file, hard-working South Dakotans and South Dakota families who have been hit so hard by these premium increases to their families. I went to mom and dad with two kids who are paying more than $2,000 a month in premiums to get insurance in the individual marketplace.

In my State of South Dakota, premiums since 2013—the last 5 years—have increased 71 percent. They have literally doubled. Do you know what that means in South Dakota? That is almost a $3,600 in the last 5 years. What average family who is trying to raise kids, trying to pay the bills, trying to save for retirement, trying to put something aside for college education, trying to pay the mortgage and the utility bill—how many families can put up with a healthcare bill that has gone up in the last 5 years by almost $3,600? That is a crisis. That is why we are here.

Our colleagues on the other side want to turn a deaf ear and blind eye to what is happening out there. We can’t afford to do that because the status quo is unsustainable. There is absolutely no way the American people who are suffering under the harms caused by ObamaCare can continue to abide the status quo.

It is up to us to take the steps that are necessary to move us in a different direction, a better path that brings stability to the marketplace, that gives people more choices, more options, greater competition, and brings down premiums and deductibles and the costs that are driving family budgets through the roof.

What we have seen since ObamaCare has been implemented are higher costs, higher taxes, and fewer options. It is as simple as that. That is what we are up against. And that is why it is time for us to act. I hope when we conclude this process at the end of this week—and we have an opportunity for everybody to offer their amendments—we will move forward with the bill and fulfill our promise to the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I appreciate the remarks of my friend from Rhode Island.

I would simply note that nothing he has said explains why you would want to strip hundreds of millions of dollars out of Medicaid or why you want to deny coverage to elderly folks who get Medicaid support for their nursing homes, people who are in the throes of addiction getting medical support for opioid treatment, children are often born on Medicaid—why you want to do all that. Nor does it explain why you would strip Medicaid eligibility from the most well-off people in the country.

Fine, let’s fix the markets, if that is the problem, but this isn’t really about that. This is stripping money out of Medicaid to give it to very wealthy people who are doing quite well already, in my view.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, Karen from Missoula County wrote to me about how her daughter can’t afford to buy insurance. ObamaCare imposes a tax penalty on Americans who don’t buy insurance. In fact, in 2014 and 2015 alone, they collected over $5 billion in fines.

It turns out, this tax has hurt poor and middle-income Americans the worst. That is why I refer to this as ObamaCare’s ‘poverty tax.’ For Karen from Missoula, paying ObamaCare’s poverty tax is cheaper for her so she pays the IRS a fine because she can’t afford healthcare insurance.

Take Debbie from Roundup, MT. She lost her own healthcare insurance. She wouldn’t be able to afford the $300 per month premiums so she, too, was subject to ObamaCare’s poverty tax and was forced to pay the IRS.

Take Mike from Kalispell, MT. He is concerned for his son who can’t afford a health insurance plan either. The son makes more than $100,000 a year but can’t afford to buy insurance. ObamaCare is putting a poverty tax on them. I think the handshake word is worth something—the right thing to do—the right thing to do—the right thing to do.

These are just a few of the stories I have received from my constituents back home in Montana, where ObamaCare is doing more harm than good. Yes, it is doing some good, but it is doing more harm than good. In fact, 40 percent of the 34,250 Montanans who paid ObamaCare’s poverty tax made less than $25,000 a year; 80 percent make more than $25,000 a year. This is not a tax on the rich. In fact, just 3.4 percent make more than $100,000. This is a tax on the poor.

Instead of helping these vulnerable Montanans to make ends meet, ObamaCare puts a poverty tax on them for being too poor to afford health insurance. In fact, in Montana alone, they paid nearly $7.8 million to the IRS. This individual mandate—this poverty tax—is immoral. It is unfair. It is a tax on freedom. It needs to be repealed immediately, and these poverty taxes must be led back to the poor who have paid them.

Our friends across the aisle will say that what we are doing is adding insult to injury. These are just a few of the stories I have received from my constituents back home in Montana, where ObamaCare is doing more harm than good. Yes, it is doing some good, but it is doing more harm than good. In fact, 40 percent of the 34,250 Montanans who paid ObamaCare’s poverty tax made less than $25,000 a year; 80 percent make more than $25,000 a year. This is not a tax on the rich. In fact, just 3.4 percent make more than $100,000. This is a tax on the poor.

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I hope my Republican colleagues will heed the warnings of our Nation’s Republic Conven Governors and Democratic Governors. In June, a letter from seven bipartisan Governors was sent to Senate leaders. This is a letter by the Governors of Ohio, Montana, Nevada, Louisianna, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. It shows the diversity of both our Nation and political parties. It says:

We believe that, first and foremost, Congress should focus on improving our nation’s private health insurance system.

Then they say:

Medicaid provisions included in this bill (that has been proposed by the House) are particularly problematic. Instead, we recommend Congress address factors we can all agree need fixing.

So the message was clear from these Governors, including Republican Governors, and I hope my colleagues will listen to them. The Nation’s Governors know because they have had to provide and help pay for Medicaid for their citizens. They know how it affects their economy, and they know what it does when families in their States get access to healthcare. It reduces the bankruptcy rate. It helps people stay employed and pay taxes. All of these things are benefits of Medicaid expansion that we have seen in Washington State. It cut the uncompensated care cost in half. It also resulted in the creation of new jobs.

A nonpartisan study found that if the current bill was the one being debated, the House bill, is passed, state economies will shrink by $93 billion. So pulling the rug out from under Medicaid recipients would hurt jobs and hurt economies in Nevada, Alaska, and West Virginia. West Virginia would lose more than 10,000 jobs, more than $1 billion in gross State product, and more than $1.7 billion in business output. Nevada would lose 3,300 healthcare jobs and Alaska would lose 2,900.

So all of these things are ways for us to say: If you are serious now—before you go home for the August recess—about protecting Medicaid and stopping this ridiculous war on Medicaid, vote for the motion. Stand up and say you understand that we may have challenges in the individual market, but it doesn’t mean that we should cut people off of access to healthcare through Medicaid.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a motion that would protect Medicaid, the Medicaid expansion, and the Healthy Indiana Plan—known as HIP 2.0—in my home State of Indiana.

I first want to thank my colleagues for their support of this motion. I am proud to have Senators CASEY, CANTWELL, BLUMENTHAL, LEAHY, BROWN, HARRIS, HASSAN, FRANKEN, FEINSTEIN, UDALL, SHAHEEN, CARPER, COONS, WHITEHOUSE, KAINÉ, VAN HOLLEN, CORTEZ MAсто, BALDWIN, MENENDEZ, REED, DUCKWORTH, MANCHIN, MARKEY, STAHE- NOW, DUKERN, WYDEN, MURPHY, WAR- Ren, GILLISDING, CHAMBER, KLECHUAR, HENNIG, HILL, BOGAN, PETERS, WARNER, and NELSON as supporters of this effort.

I also want to extend a special thank-you to my friend Senator BOB CASEY of Pennsylvania. He has been a tireless advocate for protecting the Medicaid Program and the critical services it provides, not just to the people of Pennsylvania but to millions of Americans across our beloved country. Senator CASEY has done incredible work to remind all Americans of the importance role Medicaid plays in our communities and the millions of children, families, students, and seniors who have coverage through Medicaid.

My motion is simple. It would send this bill to the Senate Finance Committee to get the consideration it never received, and it would require the committee to strike provisions that reduce or eliminate benefits for those currently eligible for Medicaid, prevent States from expanding Medicaid, or shift costs to States to cover that care.

In my State of Indiana, we have seen the success of a bipartisan approach to expanding the Medicaid Program and helping our fellow citizen access health insurance. I was proud to work with then-Indiana Governor and now-Vice President MIKE PENCE when he used the Affordable Care Act to establish HIP 2.0. More than 400,000 Hoosiers have been able to access coverage through HIP 2.0, many for the first time in their lives. HIP 2.0 has helped reduce the uninsured rate in Indiana by 30 percent. Our Vice President called HIP 2.0—that is the Medicaid expansion in Indiana—good policy.

Then-Governor PENCE is hardly the only Republican Governor to praise the Medicaid expansion as a way to cover more of our citizens. Governor Sandoval of Nevada said just yesterday that he “will continue to do all I can to protect the thousands of Nevadans whose lives are healthier and happier as a result of the expansion of Medicaid.” Governor Kasich of Ohio has offered similar sentiments as he has fought to protect the Medicaid coverage of his State, the State I fought to protect.

Nationwide, 31 States and Washington, DC, expanded coverage to more than 14 million Americans, many of whom have health insurance for the first time in their lives. All of that progress is at risk with the current bill.

Many of our States, including Indiana, have been devastated by the opioid abuse and heroin use epidemics. This problem has not been confined to simply one neighborhood or one economic bracket; it has been felt in communities across my State and all communities across our country.

I yield the floor.

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Many of our States, including Indiana, have been devastated by the opioid abuse and heroin use epidemics. This problem has not been confined to simply one neighborhood or one economic bracket; it has been felt in communities across my State and all communities across our country.
My faith also teaches me that we all deserve to live, work, and retire with dignity. In Indiana, 62 percent of Hoosier nursing home residents use Medicaid to help pay for their care. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, Medicaid supports more than 1.4 million Americans living in nursing homes across our country. Their care would be threatened by this bill, which is part of why seniors’ groups have been so vocal in their opposition to the proposed Medicaid cuts in this bill.

I have heard from a number of school superintendents all across my State opposing the Medicaid cuts because of the harm it would cause to the thousands of students across the Hoosier State. Schools use Medicaid funding for certain health-related services they provide, including individualized education plans, special transportation for children with disabilities, social workers, physical and occupational therapists, and medical equipment at the schools.

Some school districts use Medicaid to help pay for health professionals or for full-time registered nurses at schools across the country, where they assist students with complex medical needs and treat students with everything from illnesses to asthma attacks.

As school districts and local governments across the country continue to make even more difficult budget choices, cutting off this critically important funding creates just one more huge challenge. In addition to trying to make up the lost funding, our communities and States could be impacted in other areas as well, including infrastructure, other education spending, police and fire, and other local priorities.

The plan from my friends across the aisle undermines coverage for millions, but we haven’t even had a hearing on their proposal. Committees haven’t been able to go through regular order to examine the merits of Medicaid and the Medicaid expansion and how gutting them would harm millions of people—children with really complex medical conditions, those struggling with substance abuse disorders, and seniors in nursing homes trying to live with dignity and peace.

My motion sends this bill back to the Finance Committee to ensure that we are protecting those Americans who are the most vulnerable among our society. It would allow us to move toward strengthening healthcare for our country.

If you believe we should support children and families with complex medical conditions, then you should support this motion. If you want to protect the 1.4 million seniors using Medicaid for nursing home care, then you should vote for this motion. If you want to continue the progress we have made fighting the opioid abuse and heroin crisis, then when I ask for your vote in this effort.

I firmly believe we can improve healthcare and build upon the gains we have made if we work together—not as Democrats or as Republicans but as Senators and Americans—in a bipartisan manner. This is not a political game. The consequences are as serious as it gets, and the American people are counting on us.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

MR. VAN THOMAS. Mr. President, I thank the Presiding Officer, and I want to start by thanking my friend and our colleague, Senator Joe Donnelly, for standing up for Hoosiers and, in standing up for Hoosiers, standing up for all Americans whose healthcare is threatened if we continue to proceed down this very dangerous road in the Senate.

He talked about the opioid epidemic. Just last week I met with a dad by the name of Jamie Warner and the brother and sister of a young man by the name of Jamie Warner who had recently graduated from the University of Maryland. He was a Terp.

Jamie died of an opioid overdose. He was part of the opioid epidemic that is sweeping the country. Rick Warner and his family were here in the Senate asking Senators—in fact, pleading with Senators, Republicans and Democrats alike—not to pass this healthcare bill. He had lost his son Jamie, and he is determined that other moms and dads not lose their children to opioid overdose. This bill—make no mistake—will make those tragedies much more likely by taking away access to care in the way Senator Donnelly just mentioned.

Yesterday, with the tie-breaking vote of Vice President Pence, the Senate began down a very dangerous path, but we can get off that path. We can make sure we do not reach the end of that very dangerous journey. It was as if yesterday we lit the fuse and the fire is traveling through our country and at the end of the fuse is the plan to totally blow up the Affordable Care Act, which will wreak havoc on our healthcare system.

That is why we have to put out the fire. We have the power to do that. We have the power to prevent the chaos and harm that will be created in our healthcare system if we continue down this path.

The reality, we know, is that all the healthcare plans that we have seen emerge to date—whether it was House plan 1 or House plan 2, or Senate plan 1 or Senate plan 2, or the proposal to repeal entirely the Affordable Care Act, which would cause great harm—have the same rotten core. All of them have the same nasty DNA, and that is this: They would deny access to affordable care for tens of millions of our fellow Americans in order to give tax breaks to the very powerful and very rich and to big corporations. In fact, the very thing that is happening very soon, which is entirely repealing the Affordable Care Act with no replacement, will result, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office—these are the nonpartisan referees who look at these proposals and tell the American people what the impact will be—in 32 million fewer of our fellow Americans having access to affordable care today. They also tell us that we will double the health insurance premiums compared to today. And for what? They give a gigantic tax break to the wealthiest Americans.

Warren Buffett, a name most Americans know, said about a month ago: For goodness’ sake, I don’t need a $670,000 a year tax cut in order to throw tens of millions of Americans off of affordable care. Don’t do that. I don’t need that.

Make no mistake. This has never been about healthcare. It has been about wealth care. I want people to think about this. If this were really about healthcare, why is it that all of the folks involved in providing healthcare to the American people are against it—the nurses, doctors, and hospitals?

People hear a lot of facts and figures from Senators and from the House. Some people may dismiss those numbers, but why don’t we ask the people whose daily business it is to take care of the American people? What the doctors says is that all of these Republican plans violate their Hippocratic oath. What is the Hippocratic oath? It is the oath that every doctor in the country takes and the first principle is to first, do no harm.

Doctors, nurses, and hospitals all want to make people better. They all want to cure us. They all want to improve our health situation, but their No. 1 rule is not to make things worse, and all of these bills make things worse. That is what the numbers show us, and that is what the doctors, hospitals, and nurses show us. I think it is worse to have 32 million fewer Americans have access to affordable care.

What about our colleagues? Don’t they think that is worse? I think it is worse when you double health insurance premiums and raise the cost of healthcare to Americans. That sounds like it is worse to me. And all of these bills make things worse.

It is not just all the folks who provide healthcare. Why don’t we ask all of the patient advocacy groups across America about this so-called healthcare bill? What do they think?

The American Cancer Society: Bad bill—don’t pass it. It will create harm. It will be a setback in our fight against cancer.

The American Diabetes Association says the same thing: Bad news for patients with diabetes.

The American Heart Association tells us that this will be bad and harmful to people with heart disease.

There is the Alzheimer’s association, and we can go down the list. Every single patient advocacy group in America that has taken a position on this bill says it is a bad bill. It is dangerous to our health, and it is wrong.

So I don’t know how our Republican colleagues can bring Senate bill 1, Senate bill 2, or Senate bill 3 before this
House and call it a healthcare bill when all the people who provide healthcare to our constituents say it is harmful to their health and when every patient advocacy group that has weighed in says that it is bad for their health. How is that a healthcare bill?

It is good for one group of Americans—those who will get a windfall tax break, but many of them, like Warren Buffett, are saying: Hey, I don’t want this.

Now there are some very big corporations that are wanting their tax breaks, and, yes, as corporations, they are going to get this windfall benefit at the expense of everybody else in America and at the expense of our healthcare system.

So let’s not go down this path. The way to avoid going down this path is to vote down all of these amendments and make sure that we don’t put this bill into the House of Representatives, where they have already passed a bill that destroys the American people’s health.

In fact, I think people will remember that President Trump had this big celebration in the Rose Garden of the White House after the House passed that bill. They were slapping each other on their backs before the cameras.

Yet, behind closed doors, what did President Trump have to say about the House bill? Behind closed doors, he called it a mean bill, and it is a mean bill. This is, when we are talking about cuts in Medicaid that our colleague Senator DONNELLY was talking about, are even meaner than the House bill, with deeper long-term cuts. This is not according to me. It is according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

Those cuts get translated into stories of people like Rick Warner, the dad I talked about at the beginning of my comments who lost his son Jamie. That cuts get translated into harm to people throughout this country who have been crying out. We heard some of them in the Gallery just yesterday. What did they say? “Kill the bill. Don’t kill us.”

The reality is, when you deny access to affordable care to millions of Americans, you are putting their lives at risk, and when you raise premiums and costs, you are putting people’s livelihoods at risk. So let’s not go down this path.

The motion by Senator DONNELLY and others will do what Senator JOHN MCCAIN asked us to do yesterday—to go back to regular order, to go back to the committee process, to go back to the way this democratic institution is supposed to work which is when we hear from our constituents, we hear from the doctors, we hear from the nurses. We do not cover our eyes and ears to the facts and the truth.

This open process is designed to protect the American people. It is designed to protect the American people from bills just like this one for which this Senate took that dangerous first step down the road on proposals that only 11 percent of the American people think is a good idea—11 percent. I cannot even find that 11 percent myself. I have gone all over the State of Maryland, to those parts of our State that voted for Donald Trump for President and to those that did not. I cannot find 11 percent in Maryland who are for this bill. That is why we call the regular order around here is supposed to protect the public interest—because when you have a committee hearing on a bill like this, the doctors and the nurses and the hospitals all come out and testify against it, they let people know how bad it is. Instead, we have had this process in secret, behind closed doors. In many cases, we do not even know what the next amendments after this one that is coming up are going to be. We do not know what the Republican leader is cooking up behind closed doors.

Let’s do what Senator MCCAIN urged us to do and let’s get back to regular order. Let’s get back to a process that is designed to provide transparency because with transparency comes accountability. It lets the American public know exactly what we are doing and how we are going to impact their lives. Here is what I do know. Everybody across this country who knows about this bill—everyone I have spoken to from the phone calls we are getting and the emails we are getting and at the rallies and the townhalls—is catching on that this bill is not just going to blow up all of that important public sentiment coming from all political views?

The American Cancer Society is not a Republican or a Democratic organization. The American Diabetes Association is not partisan. These groups are crying out and saying: Stop.

So let’s get off this path, this very dangerous path. Let’s get back to regular order. We all know our healthcare system is not perfect. We all know the Affordable Care Act, Senator DONNELLY and I and others and many of our Republican colleagues have put forward much more narrow plans that focus on improving our healthcare system, not on blowing it up entirely. That is the path we should take.

I hope all of our Senators will agree not to continue to let that fire burn on the fuse until it gets to the end and blows up our healthcare system. Let’s stop—and let’s get together, and let’s have a committee process. Let’s do something that really improves our healthcare system and not something that destroys it.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

If no one yields time, time will be divided equally between both sides.

The majority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I am advised we are not in a quorum call. Is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.
Of course, as you might imagine with something as complex as healthcare, we have had a number of opinions on how best to achieve these goals. Even as approaches and ideas have differed, one thing has remained constant: the belief that the status quo is simply unacceptable. It is unacceptable.

Take, for example, one of my constituents in Texas, who wrote me recently to say that his monthly insurance premium under the Affordable Care Act had tripled, to $690, and his deductible, to $1,500, from the employer mandate. That is to avoid these penalties that come with forcing. Rather than hire enough people to comply with the employer mandate or forced to fire four employees just to do that under the Affordable Care Act. I often hear from Texans who would rather drop their coverage and pay the costly fine rather than have to pay for insurance that will cost them more and more each month, which they can’t afford.

Here is a telling statistic. More than 400,000 Texans who earn less than $25,000 a year have decided to pay the penalty rather than to be forced to buy the insurance they can’t afford, so many of them pay the penalty because of the individual mandate in the Affordable Care Act. They are left with nothing, other than having to pay the penalty as required by the law. That is not a solution. That is why I hope that someday we can get out of this rut and off of the talking points on each side and say: What can we do to try to provide people access to affordable health care? That is the key.

People are going to make their own decisions based on their own economic self-interest. If you are a young person, you might decide: What I would like to do is to buy a policy that will cover me in emergency circumstances if I have to go to the hospital, but I don’t want to have to pay for all the bells and whistles that raise the price. You can’t do that under the Affordable Care Act and take advantage of the tax subsidies that everybody else can. It is basically a false choice.

I also heard from another small business owner in Donna, TX, who was forced to fire four employees just to comply with the employer mandate or otherwise owe the government more than $100,000 in fines that he said could bankrupt his business. Those are the kinds of decisions that ObamaCare is forcing. Rather than hire enough people—or if you have more than 50—you decide you need to fire people in order to avoid these penalties that come from the mandate. That is not good for the economy. That is not good for the job prospects of hard-working Texans.

I shared the story of a constituent in Needville, TX, who, after a 50-percent increase in his monthly premiums, still lost his doctor because the doctor wouldn’t accept his ObamaCare plan. Then there is the emergency room employee in North Texas, who wrote me to say that she has seen a significant increase in the Medicare and Medicaid patients in the emergency room because fewer and fewer doctors would accept these patients.

In my State, one out of every three doctors will accept a new Medicaid patient because it pays at such a slow rate. We have a better idea that will make people up to 350 percent of the Federal poverty level eligible for a tax credit they can use to buy private insurance, which will increase their access to care and make it more affordable. We have coupled that with something called the innovation and stability fund, in which we have taken the authority out of Washington and sent it back to States to let Governors and State legislators and regulators at the local level design policies that meet the needs of the people in the States.

The basic structural failure of ObamaCare was to assume that you could write a one-size-fits-all plan for 320 million-plus people that would work. It hasn’t. We know that. That is not speculation; this is based on experience.

I know my colleagues across the aisle have heard similar stories from their constituents, as well, but apparently they don’t seem to care very much about that. Otherwise, they would join with us in trying to improve the status quo, which they have refused so far to do.

One thing about the procedure that we are undertaking here is that any Senator who wants to offer an amendment to improve the bill or even offer a substitute is entitled to do so, and they will get a vote on that. Our colleagues on the Democratic side, despite hearing from their own constituents that they are hurting as a result of the status quo, appear not willing to lift a finger to help them.

Indeed, the only proposal I have heard from the other side—I have heard two. One is an insurance company bailout, which does nothing to effect reforms that would ultimately address the problems we have with ObamaCare or else they say: We want to have a single-payer system, which will bankrupt the country. Those are their solutions.

On Monday, I noted that in an effort to try to unite their deeply divided party after last year’s elections, our Democratic colleagues unveiled an economic agenda aimed at, they say, lifting up lower and middle-class Americans. That is an admirable goal.

If Democrats are really serious about helping lower and middle-income Americans, one glaring and immediate action they could take is to join us in alleviating the burdens placed on these very same folks by ObamaCare—the types of people I have been talking about back in Texas, whom I know exist in their States as well.

If the Democratic leader refuses to have one of his campaign promises—economic burdens on lower and middle-income Americans, then his plan is not worth the paper it is printed on. What they are offering is false hope. Unless you are willing to deal concretely with the problem here and now, that is just another campaign promise—unless they will not be able to keep until they address what the failures of the Affordable Care Act have imposed on low- and middle-income Americans.

Simply stated, ObamaCare is a failed experiment. It has failed because Washington has tried to do too much at the expense of individual choices, individual liberties, and family control over what are deeply personal decisions.

Each and every day that passes, ObamaCare keeps getting worse. The premiums for 2018 will soon be announced by the insurance companies, and we are going to see double-digit increases again, over and above what ObamaCare has seen so far—35 percent increases since 2013 alone—on top of that.

After yesterday’s vote, we now have the opportunity to provide relief from this failed law. I know Members have a lot of ideas about how to fix this mess that ObamaCare has left us, but that was precisely why it was so important for us to get on the bill yesterday, so Members on both sides of the aisle can offer amendments and share their ideas.

Do you know how many Democrats voted to get on the bill and begin the debate and offer amendments? Zero, zip, nada. Their protestations that they somehow want to do things on a bipartisan basis, really have fallen flat, as demonstrated by their own failure to act.

If they were really interested in working with us to do something on a bipartisan basis, why wouldn’t they take advantage of this opportunity to do so?

Last night we began the process of considering amendments, including one from my colleague in Texas, Senator Cruz, who has a plan to provide people with a lot of options about how to get an insurance product the opportunity to do so, as long as the State also requires a comprehensive plan as well. This is something that is ideal for many people who want an insurance safety net but don’t necessarily want their health insurance to pay for irrelevant medical expenses or doctor visits. They can handle those through a health savings account or some other way.

Later today we will continue to work toward bringing relief to millions of Americans suffering from the failure of ObamaCare. Yesterday was a big step toward ending ObamaCare and the first step toward ending the mandates, the
penalties on low- and middle-class Texans who are having to choose between buying unaffordable insurance or paying a penalty that their government is forcing them to pay. We are going to end that.

We are going to end the job-killing employer mandate, which is forcing employers either to lay people off or not hire additional people because they don’t want to run into the additional costs required by the employer mandate.

Then there is the single mom, whom I met in Tyler, TX, a few years back. She said: I want to work full time. I want to work at least 40 hours a week, but I can't. There I was confronted out that if they put me on part time, 29 hours a week, then they wouldn't be required to meet the mandates of the Affordable Care Act.

What this single mother, who wanted to work full time, was entitled to because of ObamaCare was to work part time. Do you know what? She can't make it on 29 hours a week, so she has to get two jobs. Effectively, she had to go from 40 hours a week doing a job she enjoyed, which helped her pay the bills, to working two jobs in order to make ends meet.

We can and we should do better, and we invite our colleagues across the aisle to join us, if they will.

People keep talking about a secret process. Well, this is about as open and transparent as it gets. Everybody will have an opportunity to offer an amendment, to discuss what is in the amendment, and to vote on it. To the extent that the Senate’s work product differs from what the House of Representatives provides us, we can go to a conference and work out those differences. That is how the legislative process is supposed to work, to force our hands and complaining about something while offering no effort to try to help solve the problem simply boils down to hollow words. Unfortunately, that is all we have been hearing so far.

We, which colleagues will change their minds and join us. Insurance bailouts with reform are not the answer, a single-payer system is not the answer because it will bankrupt the country, but we are more than happy to entertain any reasonable proposal from our colleagues across the aisle. We will guarantee they get a chance to debate it and to have a vote on their amendment. I don’t think they could ask for anything more.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader, Mr. COR-TON. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, as we all know, we are continuing to debate what action we should take as far as the Affordable Care Act is concerned. We are discussing whether we are going to repeal the Affordable Care Act without any indication of what is going to replace it—what is actually in the Republican leader’s bill. I think this is worth repeating because we are talking about changing one-sixth of the U.S. economy, impacting every American family, and yet we still have no idea what the bill actually is.

We do know this. A partisan bill to take away health insurance from tens of millions of Americans, written behind closed doors, opposed by every healthcare stakeholder group and by an overwhelming majority of the American people should not pass the Senate.

As I have repeatedly said, the only constructive way forward is for Democrats and Republicans to come together in a good-faith, bipartisan effort to repair and strengthen the current law. Bipartisanship should not be our last resort, as Senator MCCONNELL has suggested. It should be a starting point. It should be the foundation of what we do in this body. This is how the great majority of the American people want us to conduct the Senate’s business. This is what I hear from my constituents in New Hampshire, and this is especially true with healthcare legislation which affects families all across this country.

Make no mistake, every bill proposed by the Republican leadership has been designed as a bullet to the heart of the Affordable Care Act. Republican proposals will collapse the individual marketplaces, make it impossible to provide affordable coverage for people with preexisting conditions, and take healthcare coverage away from up to 32 million Americans, including the most vulnerable.

I hope nobody is fooled by this latest partisan measure to roll back the Affordable Care Act and take healthcare coverage away from tens of millions of Americans. I hope every Senator will, at long last, heed Senator McCAIN’s call for bipartisanship—as we have been hearing at townhalls and in countless messages from our constituents. The American people want us to make commonsense, bipartisan changes to the current law. We need to work together to build on the strengths of the Affordable Care Act, which has dramatically reduced the number of uninsured Americans and has given us valuable tools for fighting the opioid epidemic which is ravaging so many communities in America. This is the best way forward for both the Senate and our country.

Republican leaders have spent the last 7 months pushing deeply unpopular bills to repeal the Affordable Care Act, including their effort to dramatically cut the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act but the Medicaid Program that has done so much to protect and provide healthcare for children across this country, for pregnant women, for those with disabilities and older Americans, so many of whom are in nursing homes who would lose that care if we dramatically cut the Medicaid Program as the Republican proposals have tried to do.

At the recent National Governors Association meeting, Democratic and Republican Governors alike urged Congress to reject the Republican leaders’ healthcare bill—in particular, its harsh and unsustainable cuts to Medicaid. The Republican Governor, John Kasich, was especially forceful in urging Members of Congress to work together to find bipartisan solutions. He urged Congress to give first priority to stabilizing the healthcare marketplaces.

We should listen to the Governors, but most importantly we should listen to our constituents—to the great majority of our constituents who want to preserve what is working in the Affordable Care Act and save the healthcare marketplace.

We ought to be honest about what we meant when the Governor of Ohio said the single-payer system is not the answer. We are talking about changing the Affordable Care Act without any indication of what is going to replace it—which is actually in the Republican leader’s bill. I think this is worth repeating because we are talking about changing one-sixth of the U.S. economy, impacting every American family, and yet we still have no idea what the bill actually is. We ought to be honest about what we meant when the Governor of Ohio said the single-payer system is not the answer. We are talking about changing the Affordable Care Act without any indication of what is going to replace it—which is actually in the Republican leader’s bill. I think this is worth repeating because we are talking about changing one-sixth of the U.S. economy, impacting every American family, and yet we still have no idea what the bill actually is.
the Senate, send it to a committee, have the committee staff review it, experts take a look at it, call for a committee hearing so the American people can see what is in the bill, debate the back-and-forth at the hearing, then have a few major amendments changes. Some will win, some will lose. Then the bill can come to the floor of the Senate for a similar process. It is an open, public process. That is what regular order is, and that is what JOHN MCCAIN spoke to.

Let's be at this point, quote what he said verbatim. I like this paragraph a lot so I am going to add it here. Here is what JOHN MCCAIN said yesterday on the floor of the Senate:

I hope we can again rely on humility, our need for each other, and teach each other how to trust each other again and, by so doing, better serve the people who elected us.

I like this part:

Stop listening to the bombastic loudmouths on the radio and television and the internet.

JOHN MCCAIN said:

To hell with them. They don’t want anything done for the public good. Our incapacity is their livelihood.

Let’s trust each other. Let’s return to regular order. We have been spinning our wheels on too many important issues because we keep trying to find a way to win without help from across the aisle. That is an approach that has been employed by both sides; mandating legislation from the top down, without any support from the other side, with all the parliamentary maneuvers it requires. We are getting nothing done, my friends. We are getting nothing done.

JOHN said it yesterday and it still applies and he is right. I say that as a Democrat with respect for him as a Republican, but if we are not going to do more than just listen and be warmed by his words and applaud his speech, what should we do at this moment?

What is pending before us on the floor of the U.S. Senate is legislation that will change healthcare for every single American—every one of them. It will change it for us in the Senate, but it will change it for the 125 million people I represent in Illinois too. Every one of them will be changed by this bill. What is in this bill that will change it? We honestly can’t tell you. The bill has not been written. We aren’t able to see it. We are being told what is being debated. That is embarrassing on the floor of the U.S. Senate. What should we do is take this critical matter that affects every American and every American’s healthcare and send it to a committee—the HELP Committee, chaired by Senator LAMAR

ALLEXANDER, Republican of Tennessee; Ranking Member PATTY MURRAY, who is a Senator from Washington; the Finance Committee, Senator HATCH of Utah, Republican; Senator WYDEN of Oregon, Democrat. They need to sit down and look at these bills carefully.

Let’s not make a mistake at the expense of the people who sent us here. Let’s stand up for sound, thoughtful judgment. Let’s stand up for a Senate that works, as JOHN MCCAIN challenged us. Is this what American people wish? I think it is at the heart of all of it. I think JOHN MCCAIN really set a standard we ought to live up to. Let’s stop this waste of time over a debate over a bill that cannot even be printed. Let’s take this to the regular order. Let’s do it the right way, to the credit of the Senate and to the credit of our country.

We took an oath, each and every one of us, to swear to uphold the Constitution. That Constitution, that document we revere, spells out exactly what we should do at this moment, which is stop what we are doing on this floor, stop wasting the time of the American people, and understand their healthcare, and take this to a debate that is befitting a great Constitution and a great nation and a great Senate.

I yield the floor.

I do it with the hopes that those who speak after me, of both political parties, will first sit down and read what JOHN MCCAIN said yesterday and let their applause for his remarks be reflected in what they do on the floor of the Senate today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague for an excellent statement and for appealing to the better angels.

Mr. President, I am rising to speak about the Donnelly amendment, which is very much needed because the President—and now Republicans—are walking back a clear commitment.

The President said in the campaign that he wouldn’t cut Medicaid, he wouldn’t touch it, but even before the inauguration, the Trump team eagerly signed on to a Republican plan to slash it by more than $700 billion. They stared into television cameras, looked American voters in the eyes, and said that somehow these massive cuts to Medicaid work and that somehow Medicaid would send this partisan attack on Medicare back to the Senate Finance Committee, where it should have been raised and struck down in the first place.

Mr. President, I am the ranking Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee. My focus in public life has always been to try to find common ground with people of common sense. And I wrote with colleagues—many of whom still serve on the Republican side of the aisle—that this partisan attack on Medicare back to the Senate Finance Committee, where it should have been raised and struck down in the first place.

So let us provide an opportunity to have a discussion on the Medicaid safety net in the Senate Finance Committee, you are not going to be able to have policies that get to common ground on this vital issue. What you are going to have is what is really on offer now, an anti-Medicare crusade that is a grave threat to the health and well-being of tens of millions of Americans.

Over the last few months, I have heard Republican colleagues say that Medicaid is a distinctively liberal program and that there are too many able-bodied adults enrolled. If you look at the facts, that is not what the program is all about. Medicaid is a vital source of coverage for our neighbors and friends who live in poverty. It tells those families that healthcare is covered while they work to climb the economic ladder in the private sector.

In addition to that, for the older people, we have mentioned the folks who have done everything right in life. They went to school, they found jobs, they worked hard in their careers, they raised families, and they scrimped and saved all through their lives. Growing old in America is pretty costly. So what happens is that millions of seniors who have done everything right spend down their savings, and that is when Medicare steps in to help. It covers two out of three seniors living in nursing homes, but it also picks up the costs for community-based care, where older people may have to find somewhere else to live. And it often costs less than institutional care.

Seniors who lose those benefits due to TrumpCare debate and the extreme Medicaid cuts that I just described directly to the floor of this Senate without a single committee hearing to justify this ill-advised policy.

Our colleagues from Indiana, Senator DONELLY, has put forward an important amendment to stop this ideological crusade to unravel the Medicaid safety net. Senator DONELLY’s proposal would send the Republican attack on Medicare back to the Senate Finance Committee, where it should have been raised and struck down in the first place.

The majority has brought the TrumpCare debate and the extreme Medicaid cuts that I just described directly to the floor of this Senate without a single committee hearing to justify this ill-advised policy.

We have tried several amendments on the floor of the Senate legislation that will change healthcare for every single American—every one of them. It will change it for us in the Senate, but it will change it for the 125 million people I represent in Illinois too. Every one of them will be changed by this bill. What is in this bill that will change it? We honestly can’t tell you. The bill has not been written. We aren’t able to see it. We are being told what is being debated. That is embarrassing on the floor of the Senate. What should we do is take this critical matter that affects every American and every American’s healthcare and send it to a committee—the HELP Committee, chaired by Senator LAMAR
for nursing home care, it is going to cost on average more than $90,000.

So it is seniors, and it is disabled folks who count on Medicaid to have a chance to be productive. With the Medicaid benefits under threat, people with disabilities are going to find it hard to be able to attain the productive role in our society that they so fervently want to have. Our communities are so much better off when folks with disabilities can contribute, and Medicaid makes that possible. It covers services that many private insurers don’t. And that is good for people: make it out of bed and provides safe transportation to jobs. It helps them avoid unnecessary illnesses. It is not a disincentive for people with disabilities to work; having the support of Medicaid is what makes it possible for disabled folks to work.

Across the country, there are millions of kids with special needs who rely on Medicaid every day for services—behavioral care services, mental health services. Mom or dad might have good insurance through work, but private plans don’t always cover the care those vulnerable kids need.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator’s time has expired.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 1 additional minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I have commitments to a secret process that went on in this discussion, but I will close with this: One version of TrumpCare has already been voted down here in the last day. Nobody knows where this debate will wind up, but what is important now is that Senator ENZI serves so admirably, and that the Finance Committee, where protestors support the Donnelly motion.

So I ask my colleagues to listen to their constituents, to the people in their States, people like Conner and Mackenzie and Amelle and Evan and Amanda and Michelle and Jennifer and their fertilized eggs, and do you have a 3-week-old baby in the floor in my previous talks. These voices and faces need to be brought here because there have been no hearings, no regular order, no democratic process, as we have an obligation to do.

So I ask my colleagues to listen to their constituents, to the people in their States, people like Conner and Mackenzie and Amelle and Evan and Amanda and Michelle and Jennifer and their fertilized eggs, and do you have a 3-week-old baby in the floor in my previous talks. These voices and faces need to be brought here because there have been no hearings, no regular order, no democratic process, as we have an obligation to do.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to speak to three amendments that I have submitted or planned to submit on the matter before the Senate here today, the repeal and hopefully complete replacement of ObamaCare.

There are two issues that concern me the most and that I have fought for and debated.

In this process, how can we bring down gross premium levels that have skyrocketed under ObamaCare? According to HHS, on a national average, premiums have increased 105 percent. They have more than doubled. And of course it is far worse than that in many places.

Janice Fenniman was a 62-year-old woman when I met her a couple of years ago. Prior to ObamaCare, she was paying $276 per month. In 2016, just 2 years into the implementation of ObamaCare, she was paying $786 per month. Last time I talked to her, she would be paying over $600 a month, but the problem is, she can’t afford it, so she is just taking a risk and going uninsured until she reaches the age of 65 and is qualified for Medicare.

The other issue I want to speak about is literally the unsustainable nature of Medicaid. The other thing I fought for is reducing the disparity between States that have expanded Medicaid and those that haven’t, like Wisconsin, that have done a great job managing Medicaid. My concern is the Medicaid expansion, which is directed toward able-bodied, working-age, childless adults, is funded by the Federal Government 90 to 100 percent, depending on which year you are looking at, versus traditional Medicaid targeted toward—40 percent of Medicaid spending is targeted toward children, the disabled, and the elderly. Medicaid expansion is putting at risk the sustainability of traditional Medicaid. So my three amendments deal with those issues, and I will first take up the first two amendments dealing with premiums.

I have a few charts. Unfortunately, in Washington, DC, there is not a whole lot of people who understand the problem-solving process. Let me describe it briefly.

It starts with information. It starts with defining the problem, doing a root cause analysis, having the courage to recognize and acknowledge the truth in front of you, based on that try to set achievable goals. From my standpoint, the achievable goals should be to bring down gross premium levels back to a reasonable level where they were prior to the implementation of this completely faulty architecture of ObamaCare and preserving and sustaining traditional Medicaid.

This chart, I realize, is a little busy, but let me walk you through it. This shows the trend line of ObamaCare, in terms of what we have experienced from 2010 to 2017, plus the estimates of the Congressional Budget Office as it relates to the Senate bill we voted on yesterday.

Let’s take a look at this. Back in 2010 to 2015, you see the trend line here. In 2013, on the national average, an individual is paying about $232 per month for healthcare. Now had that trend line just continued, had we not passed this faulty architecture of ObamaCare, we could reasonably expect that in about 10 years, premiums for an individual being about $303 per month.

What has happened—again, according to HHS—those premiums have gone...
from $322 per month to this year $476 per month on a nationwide average. That is a 105-percent increase.

One of the problems with CBO scoring is it is difficult to interpret. What I tried to do for my colleagues is put in chart form exactly what CBO is saying. In the chart, what Senator Sanders said next year premiums would be 20 percent above the current baseline. Of course, they don’t give you the baseline, and they don’t really give you the premiums so I had to try to cobble those together. This is pretty accurate. That would put premiums next year at about $546 versus $232 about 4 years ago. The following year it would be 10 percent above the baseline. So it would start decreasing with the Senate bill, and the third year would be 30 percent below baseline. You would see a dramatic drop. You would be at $441 per month. Then the trend over the next 7 or 8 years would be 20 percent below the baseline, $574.

Take a look at this. Had we never passed ObamaCare, premiums should be in the $300-a-month level versus $574. This is the damage done by ObamaCare, and this, I am very sad to report, is not what we are adequately addressing because we do not have the courage to do the root cause analysis and be honest with the American public about what is happening.

Let me read you a dictation from the family I just heard from yesterday. Sheri and Vern Kolby, whom we heard about from one of our state legislators who contacted one of my regional directors. He sent me an email telling me their story.

I called Sheri last night. She didn’t have time. She was just off her shift. Her husband is working way more than 40 hours a week—basically, that is 60 hours a week. The people whom President Clinton was talking about, people busting it, working 60 hours a week, their premiums have doubled and their coverage has been cut in half. That’s what happened in my state. Staff reached out, and we basically dictated her story, her and her husband Vern’s story.

This is not her letter to me but her voice based on what was told to me by my staff. This is Sheri Kolby from River Falls, WI.

My husband and I have preexisting conditions. We need affordable healthcare through ObamaCare or whatever works. Vern is a milkman, driving a truck to farms to pick up milk, and there are only seven employees at his company who doesn’t provide coverage. I am a florist. Now, I am the only one working employee so they don’t have health coverage at my work either. We signed up for ObamaCare in 2014 for the entire 12-month period.

We went on healthcare.gov, but the site crashed, so we had to call a phone number which was jammed. Finally, I got hold of someone and got through an hour and a half of questions. Then you get information in the mail about what your premium will be and your subsidy, and you make your monthly payment.

We were getting monthly letters telling us we had to fax in our pay stubs to make sure we were still qualifying for the subsidized premiums. We did that every month, but then next March, when we filed our taxes, that is when my tax preparer said, “You better sit down. Not only did you pay your premium, but they took your subsidy back.” That was about $15,000.

We were earning too much to qualify for the subsidies, even though we held dual-coverage jobs. If we did not qualify, we would have to pay the entire premium un-subsidized. In 2015, we made $59,000 and ended paying almost $30,000 for premiums and deductibles. That was 51 percent of our income.

In covering our deductibles and our out-of-pocket costs, we used up almost all of our retirement savings. When a huge amount of money was due, we turned to the IRS, we decided we had to sell our house.

Sheri and Vern Kolby had to sell their house so it wouldn’t be taken away in foreclosure because of Obama’s skyrocketing premiums.

Now we can only get a 3-month plan. That is all that is available. Private catastrophic plans are few and far between.

And I will add, parenthetically, also way overpriced because of the faulty architecture of ObamaCare.

There aren’t a lot of companies that offer plans in Pierce County. We are kind of in a funnel and that funnel keeps narrowing. In May, I went back to healthcare.gov, but coverage wouldn’t give me anything. The bottom would be about $14,400 per year in premiums for a policy with a $14,000 deductible. If you made $200,000, you could pay that, but we are not even close to that. You could only fluctuate between $50,000 and $60,000. We are blue collar. We pay our bills on time, we respect people, and we want to live a good life, and we have just been trying to stop.

It may come to a point where we might not have insurance, but we will just end up owing the hospital if something else happens. My husband works 60 to 70 hours a week, and I work 30. We drive a ’96 Wrangler. We are not running around in a Ferrari. We don’t spend money beyond our means. We don’t take trips to Tahiti, and we are not trying to swindle the system, but it has been a very stressful experience.

We have been married 28 years, and we have stayed true to so much stuff, but we are not old enough to even think about retirement for a long time so I don’t know what we will do.

These are the forgotten men and women of this healthcare debate. These are the people who are busting it, who don’t get subsidized, who can’t afford insurance coverage because of the faulty architecture of ObamaCare, and we are not courageous or honest enough to really address it.

We did cite from HHS a study that they commissioned and they had the results in May. I would like to put up my next chart here.

Basically, what they did is they studied the cause, and I have the study right here. Basically this is the question they are asking: What portion of the increase in premiums is attributable to the effects of guaranteed issue and community rating?

Now I realize there are many popular elements of ObamaCare. The problem is, they cause premiums to skyrocket. That last graph—way above what they would have been without that architecture—pricing people out of the market, forcing American taxpayers to pay far more in subsidies than we otherwise would have to do or would be necessary had we never passed ObamaCare.

Well, here is the result of their study. They studied four States: Georgia, Tennessee, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The member I can remember the last one, but I am going to focus on Tennessee.

What this graph shows—I realize it is kind of hard to see—but in Tennessee, between 2013 and 2017, premiums increased $327 per month, from $104 per month per month in 2013 to $431 per month in 2017, a 4-year-old male. That is a threefold increase, 314 percent. What caused it, 73 to 76 percent was increased risk. Again, increased risk is basically defined as the guaranteed issue covering preexisting conditions and community rating—things that are popular but again that cause premiums to double and in January Fenniman’s case, more than tripled.

One thing I want to point out about that, when you hear that talking point, premiums that double and triple, look at the inverse of that. If we could roll back the clock, go back 4 years, premiums would be one-half to one-third of what they are today. People would be able to afford coverage, and the American taxpayer would be supporting those whom we want to support with a whole lot less dollars.

Now, the good news, if we were honest, if we were courageous, and if we actually addressed the root cause analysis, which has been done, which we have largely ignored, the good news is, you can actually cover people with high costs and preexisting conditions without collapsing insurance markets. They are called high-risk pools or, in the case of Maine, invisible high-risk pools. The people in it don’t even realize they are in it, but it has worked phenomenally well.

Maine passed guaranteed issues, and just like they did under ObamaCare, guaranteed issues caused premiums to skyrocket. You can see the premium rate from their old Anthem HealthChoice plan back in 2011. Once they supplanted—they didn’t even repeal the guaranteed issue, but they just supplanted this with an invisible high-risk pool—their premiums were cut in half. This is doable. It is possible, but it is only possible if you take a look at best practice, we are willing to have the courage to admit exactly what is causing the problem.

I have two amendments designed to address the increase in premiums. First—and I realize this will probably not even be voted on—would be a simple one-sentence amendment that would repeal all of ObamaCare, not partial repeal, not just two-thirds repeal but repeal that would concentrate on removing all of those market reforms. I would call them market distortions that is that, it is their sky rocket, that cause people like Sheri and Vern Kolby to lose their house. That is my first amendment.
The second amendment really relates to exactly what ObamaCare was originally designed to do, which was put Members of Congress in the exact same position of people like Sheri and Vern Kolby.

Back in July of 2009, November 18, as this was being debated in the HELP and the Finance Committee, Senators Coburn and GRASSLEY introduced language to those bills that would make Members of Congress have to purchase their health insurance plans on any kind of pre-existing or the State-exchange changes, whatever was passed under the Democrats’ healthcare plan.

On December 24, 2009, the Senate passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, an Orwellian-named bill that did neither, that had Senator Coburn’s basic language from the HELP Committee that was going to require Members of Congress to purchase their coverage through the exchanges. What was interesting is, it did not include—employer contribution. Those were buried.

On March 24, after the House had passed their version of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Healthcare Education Reconciliation Act, Senator GRASSLEY offered an amendment to allow an employer contribution to Members of Congress and their staffs’ healthcare plans. That amendment was defeated with 56 Democratic Senators defeating it. Three Democratic Senators voted for it, and every Republican Senator voted for it, allowing the Federal contribution. So Congress specifically said in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Members of Congress and their staffs must purchase their healthcare through the State exchanges, and they cannot obtain an employer contribution for those plans.

Let’s fast forward to October 2, 2013. Members of Congress and their staff panicked. They went running to the Obama White House and said: You have to fix this. We know what we passed. We know what the law says, but we have to weasel our way around this—and they did. So the Office of Personnel Management issued a rule, first of all, that Congress was a small business that could purchase their insurance on a shop exchange which required a small business, which is defined in the law as less than 100 employees—I just want you to know, Mr. President, that Congress has 11,000 employees. There is no way this Congress is a small employer, but that was the technique that they were able to work their way around this law. So right now Members of Congress and staffs are the only Americans who get the special treatment of being able to purchase insurance on Obamacare exchanges and get an employer contribution.

Millions of Americans did lose their insurance because of ObamaCare. They had to purchase the overpriced insurance policies out of the exchanges, but they have no access to employer contributions. So my second amendment would put only Members of Congress—I don’t think we should penalize our staff—but I want to put Members of Congress in the exact same position as Sheri and Vern and thousands and maybe tens of thousands, maybe hundreds of thousands, maybe millions of Americans who are making too much, who are working 60 hours a week. Their premiums have doubled, sometimes tripled. Coverage is cut in half, and they can’t afford it. They are taking a risk. Congress is still advantaged because we can afford more than $50,000. We are making $174,000.

The reason I am offering this amendment—I know it will not be popular—is that the only way Congress will have the courage to act is if they are affected every bit as much as the American public. I urge all of my colleagues to be honest, to be courageous, and to make sure they do not exempt themselves from the pain, from the harm, from the damage of ObamaCare, so that they are actually fixing this problem.

Those are my first two amendments that have to do with premiums. I urge my colleagues to support them. I think that they are good amendments and are worthy of support.

Mr. President, how much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 30 minutes remaining.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, let me move on to my second point. Again, I come from a State whose Governor showed real courage in recognizing that traditional Medicaid was unsustainable and was in trouble. The last thing we really should be doing to traditional Medicaid is making it even more unsustainable. I think it is extremely important that we recognize that Medicaid expansion is directed toward able-bodied childless adults. That is, again, funded at a much higher level by the Federal Government, at 90 to 100 percent, versus traditional Medicaid, which is really targeted to those we want to help—children. Forty percent of traditional Medicaid goes toward children, the disabled, and the elderly.

My next amendment is designed to try and make traditional Medicaid more sustainable, not by pulling the rug out from anyone but simply by limiting further enrollment and allowing Medicaid expansion to phase out based on attrition. Let me show you a couple of facts, because we hear an awful lot of demagoguery. We hear an awful lot of scaremongering. I hear it in Wisconsin, as people who are on traditional Medicaid and who are largely unaffected by this bill other than in the out years are scared that their traditional Medicaid is going to be taken away from them.

Here is the facts. Back in 2008, the Federal Government spent about $200 billion on traditional Medicaid. With the implementation of ObamaCare, we began increasing that pretty dramatically with Medicaid expansion. Over the next decade or so, we will spend close to $90 billion per year, on average, on Medicaid expansion—again, targeted toward able-bodied, working-age, childless adults. This is the former trend line, and this is the current trend line for traditional Medicaid.

Now, you hear about all of this slashing of Medicaid. Here is the current baseline. This is what the Senate bill would have done to traditional Medicaid. No expansion. Yes, you can see some relatively significant cuts to Medicaid expansion, but to traditional Medicaid, you see, really, not all that much—about $164 billion over 10 years.

My amendment would say, without pulling the rug out from anyone: Let’s end further enrollment in Medicaid expansion, and as that program phases out through attrition, let’s devote the money that we save to traditional Medicaid, as it is always rising. We boost it a little bit further and do not increase the deficit by any more, under the Senate bill, by doing that.

My last point is this, and then I will move on and yield the floor. This is what I am talking about in terms of dollars. Under current law, traditional Medicaid will spend $4 trillion over the next decade and Medicaid expansion almost $1 trillion, for a total of $5 trillion spending. Under the Senate bill that was originally proposed, original Medicaid would have been cut by about $164 billion, which is still close to $4 trillion, and Medicaid expansion, obviously, would have been reduced by a far greater amount.

Under what I call my sustainability amendment, traditional Medicaid would actually increase in spending slightly and not harm anybody—not children, not the disabled, not the elderly. Obviously, with Medicaid expansion, just by allowing it to phase out through attrition—not pulling the rug out from anyone—in the end, you would be spending the same amount on the Senate bill. From my standpoint, I think that we preserve and sustain Medicaid.

Again, I urge my colleagues to support all three of my amendments. I hope to get a vote. If not a vote, I hope that they are considered if this thing goes to a House-Senate conference.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Wisconsin, my fellow accountant, for doing a good job of accounting there and providing some charts that very explicitly show what he has been working on, what he has been encouraging people to do, and
some solutions. That is what we keep looking for within the criticism that we are getting from the other side of the aisle—some solutions.

Earlier this year, Congress took an important first step in fulfilling the promise of repealing Obamacare by passing a budget resolution that paved the way for this debate that we are having right now and paved the way for some real healthcare reforms that we are currently debating. These reforms are focused on reducing the millions of hardworking families who have been delayed or prevented by Obamacare’s taxes and mandates.

You heard one example from the Senator from Wisconsin of a family who is paying excruciatingly high prices for their healthcare only to find out that they have $16,000 in deductibles, which makes it very difficult to utilize it at all. Is that insurance, if you have to pay $16,000 before the rest kicks in?

What we are doing here is working to stabilize the insurance markets that have left millions of Americans with no options. We improve the affordability of health insurance. We preserve access to care for Americans who have preexisting conditions while we safeguard Medicaid for those who need it the most. We allow States more flexibility, yet ensure that any changes, unless done by Executive action under the President, were put in place by the people who created. This may be because Obamacare has enshrined their idea that bigger government is better and that any changes, unless done by Executive action under the President, were out of the question.

In their zeal to protect this flawed program, they may have missed it when President Obama himself admitted last year that the law had real problems.

He said:

There are going to be people who are hurt by premium increases or lack of competition and choice.

He went on to say that these problems are simply called “growing pains.”

Now, these growing pains have forced millions of Americans across the country to grapple with impossibly high health insurance premiums for plans they do not want, out-of-reach deductibles to help with common pre-scriptions, and disappearing insurance providers to even be allowed to shop for better coverage.

As I noted earlier, for more and more Americans, there is only a single insurer: the government. Many residents across the country will have only one choice. In fact, on the Federal exchanges, one in five consumers will likely be able to select plans from a single insurer. Many residents across the country will have only one choice of health insurer. This includes my home State of Wyoming, as well as the entire State of Alaska.

What does this lack of competition mean? Premiums are surging for hard-working families, who now have to choose between unreasonable insurance rates or an unreasonable fine. If my colleagues wanted yet further evidence that competition lowers prices, they need look no further than their constituent mail.

In Wyoming, some families will be forced to pay more than 30 percent of their income in order to obtain healthcare coverage, which often includes deductibles of over $1,000. One family faced premiums of more than $1,600 a month. As an alternative, their tax penalty for not carrying coverage is only $700 a year. That is a $1,600-a-month premium charge or a $1,700 penalty for not covering it for the whole year.

So guess what they did? They paid the fine because they could not afford the insurance premium, let alone the deductible. I think $5.3 million in fines were collected in Wyoming from the people who could not afford the insurance. They took the lesser alternative of paying a tax penalty, which gave them nothing.

For those who are lucky enough to be able to afford insurance, particularly in the individual market, under the new health law, premiums are expected to increase faster in 2017 than in previous years. Some States will see insurance premiums rise by as much as 55 percent. That is in 1 year. We are talking about a 4-year doubling of cost. This will be a 50-percent cost increase in 1 year. That is truly a healthcare emergency. Not doing anything and accepting the status quo is simply unacceptable to millions of Americans suffering under this law.

Now that we have discussed why we are doing this, it is important to also ask how we hope to help these suffering Americans. It is vital that we stabilize collapsing insurance markets that have left millions of Americans with no options, while reestablishing the affordability of health insurance.

Our bill will also preserve access to care for Americans with preexisting conditions, and it will safeguard Medicaid for those who need it most by giving States more flexibility, yet ensuring that those who rely on this program will not have the rug pulled out from under them—contrary to the scare tactics being put forth by Obamacare’s defenders.

Most importantly, Congress is working to free the American people from the onerous mandates to purchase insurance they don’t want or can’t afford.

Congressional Republicans and our President are focused on securing the future of Americans’ healthcare system and truly understand the importance of restoring the trust of hard-working taxpayers.

What we are doing here under reconciliation, which is a budget process, will not solve all the problems. There will be opportunities for a more fulsome investigation, support, and changes if the other side is willing to do that. There are some things that need to be
done immediately to protect the American taxpayers and the people who want to have healthcare.

So I ask everyone to focus on securing the future of America’s healthcare system and to try to understand the importance of restoring the trust of hard-working taxpayers.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TOOMEY). The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. STRANGE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. STRANGE. Mr. President, I rise today in defense of those who cannot defend themselves. After 8 years of policies that have undermined the sanctity of life, we have an opportunity today to extend the protections of the Hyde amendment wider than ever before.

After 8 years of a failed social experiment that subverted the will of a majority of Americans and denied rights of conscience and religious freedom, we have an opportunity to ensure that taxpayer dollars will not contribute to the scourge of abortion under any circumstance.

As we consider options to fix our nation’s failing healthcare system, partisan lines cut deeper on abortion than on any other issue. However, we should all be able to agree that taxpayer funds have no place in funding abortions.

I also hope we can agree that our society cannot be truly prosperous until the Americans with Disabilities Act is 27 years old. It is a piece of legislation that both recognizes and guarantees the rights of people with disabilities. It is, at its heart, a civil rights bill, one that protects and preserves Medicaid so that people with disabilities as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act on the Americans with Disabilities Act, is 27 years old.

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We should be celebrating the liberty and freedom of people with disabilities, but instead of having a celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act on the Americans with Disabilities Act on this anniversary day, the Senate Republican bill—which, I guess, is basically the House bill that we are on right now—that threatens that liberty that was accorded in the Americans with Disabilities Act with regard to those with disabilities.

Now, I have heard a lot of speeches on this floor by my Republican colleagues about freedom and liberty in the context of healthcare—lots of speeches about both of those words. I would argue that, if you consider this legislation and the Senate versions of it that came after the House bill, all of these Republican healthcare bills were really, simply, about decimating Medicaid, limiting community-based care, and cutting long-term services and support, which will rob people with disabilities of their rights that the Americans with Disabilities Act advanced.

The motion was rejected.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I have a motion to commit to the desk.

MOTION TO COMMIT

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, the question is on agreeing to the Donnelly motion to commit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). The question is on agreeing to the Donnelly motion to commit. The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 52, as follows:

[Roll Call Vote No. 171 Leg.]

YEA—48

Baldwin
Bennet
Blumenthal
Booker
Brown
Cantwell
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Collins
Coons
Cortez Masto
Donnelly
Duckworth
Durbin
Feinstein
Franken

NAY—52

Alexander
Barron
Blunt
Boozman
Capito
Cassidy
Cochran
Collins
Coryn
Cotton

MOTION TO COMMIT

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I have a motion to commit to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

MOTION TO COMMIT

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I have a motion to commit to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 45, nays 55, as follows:

[Roll Call Vote No. 169 Leg.]
I think everyone here knows the disabilities story. I will just do a quick summary.

For centuries, people with disabilities have been placed against their will in institutions like this one. This is a building in Pennsylvania. When it was opened and operating, it was known as Pennhurst. There were lots of places like this across the country, not just in one or two States. These institutions were, in fact, over time, warehouses, in which people with disabilities were kept—confined to their rooms, told what time to wake up, what time to go to bed, and when to eat. They were told they could never leave. That was the basic set of rules they lived by when they lived in institutions like that. These were places where choice was unknown and where freedom, liberty, and self-determination were also unknown.

Over the past 50 years, we have made some improvements—slow improvements—with the voices of people with disabilities speaking the loudest throughout those 50 years, individuals and families have fought for their freedom and have worked to create laws that protect their freedom.

For example, the 1973 Rehabilitation Act affirmed and the Americans with Disabilities Act affirmed and protected the rights of people with disabilities to have access to all of society. The 1990 Olmstead Supreme Court decision reaffirmed the right of people with disabilities to live where they want to live and to be free of the confines of an institution.

Let’s take it from the institution down to the individual—to individuals like Jensen, who is pictured right here. People like Jensen, who were once forced to live in nursing homes, now live where they want to live and pursue their dreams. Yet we know that rights alone do not equal freedom and liberty for people with disabilities.

Medicaid and the supports that are necessary to live in the community and to have that full measure of freedom and that full measure of choice. Medicaid protects the hard-won rights of people with disabilities to have real choices. Medicaid home-based and community-based supports mean that people with disabilities can live in their own apartments, hold jobs, and contribute to their communities. Medicaid makes it possible to use the talents, skills, and knowledge of people with disabilities. Medicaid makes their rights a reality.

Do not take my word for it. Just ask the people who were here today in the Gallery, the people who are outside this Chamber and are walking the halls of the Senate, walking throughout the buildings, marching, demonstrating, and greeting people on the streets, with some of them staying overnight at one place to make their voices heard. Ask the members of the National Council on Independent Living. Ask The Arc’s 700 affiliates around the country. Ask the folks from Easterseals, the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, and on and on and on—groups across the country that are telling us with one voice: Do not move forward with cuts to Medicaid as have been proposed in each of these bills.

These are folks who will tell you that their rights are not real without community supports. This bill will drive people back into those institutions that I just showed you a picture of. In fact, which limit amendment—which would basically say: Let’s go back to the committee of jurisdiction—in this case, the Finance Committee—and spend some time to have some hearings, have some regular order, which some have called for here, and really consider this issue seriously—I know there will be talk that some will reject my amendment and will introduce and maybe have a vote on a sense of the Senate.

There is a time and a place for that kind of thing when the Senate speaks with one voice on a matter. This is not one of those times. This is a time when we have to do more than just have a sense of the Senate. We have to be serious about a particular promise made in the case of making sure that we protect people with disabilities so that they have all of the rights and all of the promises fulfilled in the Americans with Disabilities Act and other legislation.

So we are hearing that there might be a sense of the Senate offered as a side-by-side to the amendment that I will offer. This is totally inadequate in terms of the serious issue that we are here to talk about—in this case, protecting people with disabilities. It is a totally inadequate response to that. The people with disabilities who are in the Gallery, who are in the reception area, or who are back at home in congressional districts and States—those folks and the folks in our community around the country—want to ensure that the promise that we made to them in the ADA and in other measures will be kept—that we will keep our promise. If Medicaid community-based services are slashed, statements by the Senate will not help very much.

What will we likely have in front of us in the next couple of hours or between today and tomorrow?

I know it has been described in a lot of ways, but it is a sense of the Senate captured in a time when we have to do more than just have a sense of the Senate. We have to be serious about a particular promise made in this case, of making sure that we protect people with disabilities so that they have all of the rights and all of the promises fulfilled in the Americans with Disabilities Act and other legislation.

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this motion: Senators STABENOW, DUCKWORTH, HASSAN, VAN HOLLEN, MURRAY, BROWN, BLUMENTHAL, CARPER, DURBIN, KAINE, BALDWIN, WYDEN, MARKY, MURPHY, HARRIS, CARDIN, WARREN, HIRONO, REED, NELSON, KLOUCHI, WARRICK, SHAHEEN, COONS, BENNET, KING, MENENDEZ, WHITTIER, LEAHY, and BOOKER. I want to thank them for joining me in this effort.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, we are struggling right now to find a replacement for the Affordable Care Act. The American people have voted in four successive elections for such a replacement, culminating in the election of Donald Trump to be President of the United States.

Now, one can ask oneself, if the Affordable Care Act is so great, why would the American people continue to want to have a different program? I think the wisdom of the American people is that they do not want the government to be intrusive in their lives, and secondly, there is an issue that somehow the Affordable Care Act is not entirely fair, that perhaps there are some who do better under the Affordable Care Act than others. Our country is about equity.

By the way, I am a physician, and for 25 years I have worked in the public hospital system of Louisiana trying to get healthcare for those who otherwise did not have it. I am all about those who do not have insurance or those who are unfairly insured getting better care. Ultimately, to have better care, there has to be adequate financing for that care. So we begin to look at the numbers that underlie how the Affordable Care Act works. Two—just-about-right States just about right, until at the end, wherever that American lives, she or he is getting about the same amount as every other citizen receiving support across the country.

When we say this—I am a physician. I know that if you have more disease burdens in one State, that is a costlier population. If your average age is 40, that is another aspect of a costlier population. We can go through those sorts of factors. So we do get wiggle room at the end, so that if a State is higher cost because they have more disease, they would get a little more money. But on the other end, if you net it out, wherever that American lives, she or he would get about the same amount of money.

Senator GRAHAM will go over this in more detail, but it turns out that the average American receiving benefits under the Affordable Care Act—if you combine Medicaid expansion and the tax credits people receive, the average credit is somewhere in the mid-$6,000 range; call it $6,400, $6,500. But if you look at what some States receive, in Massachusetts, it is about $18,000 per person. Now, that is a lot of money. So if the average is $6,600 and in one State it is $18,000, that is not fair.

Now, I would submit that if we equalize that treatment; if we just treat people fairly; if no matter where you live, the amount you get is not dependent upon the State in which you live but upon your need, then we can actually provide access. We can fulfill President Trump’s campaign pledge of continuing to help those with preexisting conditions, lowering premiums—lowering premiums—and eliminating mandates.

By the way, it isn’t just Republican—represented States that would benefit. We can look at West Virginia. These are some preliminary numbers. West Virginia would receive in 2020 about 43 percent more than they would based upon current trajectories. Indiana would receive 48 percent more. Let’s look at Montana. Montana would receive about—my gosh—Montana would receive over 100 percent more than they are currently scheduled to receive under the current system.

This takes the money that has already been allocated, and instead of focusing it on three States—there are a few more; call it seven, but those are the States that really bring it home—if, instead of all of this Federal largess going to three States, we distribute it fairly, all Americans can do better. All Americans can do better.

Ultimately, we should be about fairness in this Chamber, not about partisan politics.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, let me just talk to my colleagues where I am coming from.

Under the current system—ObamaCare as we know it—the money to help people buy insurance and the money for Medicaid expansion, those are two things that were never meant to—there is what happens under ObamaCare: California is 21.39 percent of all the money, and they are 12.15 percent of the population. Maryland gets 2.35 percent of the money, and they are 1.86 percent of the population. Massachusetts gets 6.67 percent of all the money, and they are 2.11 percent. New York gets 8.62 percent, and they are 6.11 percent. That is a lot of math for a guy who didn’t do well in math. So 39 percent of all the money is going to just about three States represent 22 percent of the population. I like these people. They are all good Americans. I just don’t like them that much. The bottom line is, the rest of us—46 States—get 60 percent to divide up among ourselves. How can that be?

Senator Cassidy explained that the current system is weighted to the benefit of four States at the expense of the rest of us. I would like to fix that, and if you don’t live in one of those States, you do want to fix it. We have tried to do that. What I want to do is take the money that we are spending under ObamaCare and block grant it back to the States so that we can level out the disparity in funding but go even further and allow people in each State to develop healthcare systems that meet the needs of that State.

If you are for single-payer healthcare, you hate this idea because that will be the end of single-payer healthcare. If you want the money to move, you want the power will leave Washington and it will go back to people where they live. It will be healthcare closest to the patient. So if you believe that
government is better—closer to the voter, closer to the people—if the idea of government close to the people is a good idea, I would argue that healthcare closer to the patient is a good idea.

I regret we didn’t think of this sooner.

What Senator CASSIDY said is that our goal is to make sure that no matter in what State you live, you are going to get the ret amount of dollars and it is going to be fairly equal no matter where you live. If you live in a State with a unique disease problem or an aged State, you will get a little bit more because you will need a little bit more.

The model we have today is really disproportionate. It doesn’t work. It is driving up healthcare costs all over the country. People are dropping coverage because the ObamaCare mandates are too expensive.

So what we are doing is we are leaving the taxes on the wealthy in place. To my conservative friends, I am sorry, but that is what we are going to have to do to make this work. We eliminate the medical device tax because that hurts innovation. We eliminate the individual employer mandate because that stifles the whole idea of having creativity at the State level. We leave the tax on wealthy Americans in place. We are able to take that money, plus money we would give to insurance companies to stabilize the national market, and block grant it back to the States with a formula that is fairer.

Let me tell my colleagues what that would look like. Let me drill down to what two States do, by the way. California and Massachusetts by themselves are 28 percent of all ObamaCare mandates and 14 percent of the population.

Let’s look at Alabama. Beginning in 2020, you are going to get 200 percent more. How can that be? It is where you start from. The people in Alabama are going to get a lot more money because when you look at the money coming through the ObamaCare system to the good people of Alabama and how we spend per patient, you are way behind. You are going to get a lot of money to catch up with what should be the national average.

Our friends in California are going to get a 38 percent reduction, but we are going to give you time to adjust for that. There is going to be a wind-down period. It is not going to happen over-night. There will be a fund that can help you if you can prove you have a unique population of people who are sicker and older.

To my good friend from Colorado, you get 42 percent more. How can that be? Under ObamaCare, the money that was going to these four States gets a little higher percentage if you block grant. Not only will you get 42 percent more money than ObamaCare would give the good people of Colorado, you actually get a chance to spend the money unique to the needs of Colorado.

Let’s go to Oklahoma, since we have a guy from Oklahoma here whom we like a lot. You get 200 percent. Congratulations. Why do you get 200 percent? You are starting way behind everybody else. The bottom line is, we want to catch you up beginning in 2020.

We are going to slow that down from other some people because they are hoggish.

New York, California, we want to help you transition, but the rest of us are not going to sit on the sidelines and make most of the money. We are going to begin to level this out.

Where is South Carolina? I have a unique interest in that State. How did we do? We get 123 percent. That shows you where we start from.

In about 6 years, we are all going to meet. It is going to take 6 or 7 years to level this all out, and we are going to get more. Other States are going to get a little bit less. The ones that are a little bit more than they need to be will get about the same.

The big benefit for all of us is, the people in your backyard get to make decisions about healthcare rather than a Washington bureaucrat whom you will never meet. The big thing about this to me is, you have a voice now as a consumer.

Right now, if you don’t like your healthcare under ObamaCare, whom do you complain to? Do you complain to your Congressman or Senator? At the end of the day, most of ObamaCare is administered by the Federal Government through a bureaucracy. We don’t manage healthcare in the Senate.

Under this construct, the same amount of money is going to go back to your backyard, and you will get a better deal if you are starting on the tail end of this now. If you don’t like what is going on in your State, you can actually, actually change it by whom you vote for in the statehouse. You can go to your State capital and complain to your Governor.

The likelihood that the person you are complaining to goes to the same hospital as you and your family goes up. Wouldn’t it be nice to be able to complain to somebody who is in the same boat you are who goes to the same healthcare network because they live in your neighborhood?

To me, the creative thing we could do in healthcare in America is allow people in their own backyard to design healthcare systems that meet the unique needs of that State and give consumers a voice that really can be heard because, under this model, your statehouse and your Governor are going to have a lot of flexibility. They can’t spend it on roads and bridges. They have to spend it on healthcare.

If they get really efficient, the savings they will accrue stays in that State and not on the Federal Government. You will have a race for efficiency rather than just a race to write bigger and bigger checks.

The big benefit to me is, if you are a healthcare consumer, you will finally have somebody you know you can talk to about what works and what doesn’t.

We are about to talk about how we end this debate. I hope this idea will be looked at by not just us but Democrats. If you are from West Virginia—our good friend JOE MANCHIN—West Virginia gets 43 percent more dollars under the block grant than they would ObamaCare. West Virginia gets to determine how to spend that money more under the block grant than they would under ObamaCare. You can’t spend it on roads and bridges, but you have to spend it on healthcare.

There are three things we are trying to achieve. We are not going to let four States take most of the money, a disproportionate share of the money. Over time, we are going to create a system—no matter where you live—you are going to get roughly the same amount of money from the Federal Government that the money block grant so the people in that State can use it without being dictated to by a Washington bureaucrat as long as it is on healthcare. The biggest thing we give you is a chance to have a voice in your healthcare. The people in charge of your healthcare will be in your own backyard, not in Washington, somebody who doesn’t know you, you will never get to meet, and quite frankly doesn’t understand your way.

I hope we can rally around this. These are not 100 percent done numbers. Generally speaking, this is pretty accurate. It came from the Labor-HHS people. It may change a little bit, but when you start the debate with four States getting 40 percent of the money, clearly most of us are going to get more. When you see these big numbers like our friends in Oklahoma and Montana, the reason you are getting so much more now is that the current system leaves you behind in an unfair way.

My goal is, if you live in Oklahoma, New York, and California, the Federal Government is going to provide healthcare resources as equal as possible, but those resources will be managed by people in the State, not bureaucrats in Washington.

I hope over the coming day and a half that maybe we can rally around an idea that we should have started with to begin with. I don’t mind being generous when it comes to putting money on the table to make sure people can afford healthcare. The tradeoff is as follows. We leave most of the ObamaCare taxes in place because we need a funding stream to level out the inequities. We are going to have a tax cut bill later. I want a flatter tax, a smaller corporate tax, and lower individual taxes, but this revenue stream coming from wealthy Americans is necessary for the transition. It is going to provide resources to States that they can manage, unlike ObamaCare where one-size-fits-all.
To me, this is a tradeoff. To the people in West Virginia, I am not asking you to take less and have a tax cut for rich people. We are going to keep the wealthy taxes in place. I am asking the people of West Virginia to take 43 percent more money. It is not a trick. Use it wisely. Thank you all. I hope over the next day we can inform you about how your State benefits. To those States who are going to have to ramp down, the only reason you are ramping down is you are taking so much more from the rest of us. Quite frankly, that is not fair. We want to be fair to you and give you a chance to adjust, but the rest of us should stand up and say it is not fair that an American in California or New York or Massachusetts—all fine States—gets 40 percent of the money. That is not right.

It is not right to have a one-size-fits-all healthcare system because you will not get the best product. The best product is going to come from innovation. Your strongest voice will come from innovation.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Lee). Time will be equally charged to both sides.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized in morning business for as much time as I shall consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, there seems to be some confusion. I will take whatever time you designate is left. I wanted to talk longer.

The things the Senator from South Carolina was talking about are pretty amazing. I love my State of Oklahoma. Did you know our premiums in the State of Oklahoma under ObamaCare have tripled? They have gone up 201 percent.

When you look and you see the options that are out there, what really disturbs me—I understand one big difference between Democrats and Republicans is Democrats are disciplined. Republicans aren’t, so they are all voting against any kind of a change. I guess they are well known for that.

I can assure you, though, if you look at the charts the Senator from South Carolina was showing, you would wonder why in the world they would all be gathering around when they would dramatically benefit by taking one of the alternatives to ObamaCare.

I didn’t come down to talk about that, but I have to say, from a State where our premiums have gone up—tripled—you stop and you ask: What is this going to look like when we get the new bill done?

We don’t know exactly what it is going to look like. It is going to have the individual mandates done away with. It is going to have the taxes reduced. It is going to have block grants going to the States.

Look at my State of Oklahoma. That will increase the amount of money that will be coming in, with less taxes, by 200 percent. I would say, there are a lot of Democrats who would find that in the same situation.

One last note about that, as I go back and I work around the State, I find there are a lot of people who are saying: I don’t like this alternative.

I would only say, not just in Oklahoma but anywhere in the Nation, if you oppose what is going to be the alternative, what you are saying is, you would rather have ObamaCare.

COMMENDING ATTORNEY GENERAL SESSIONS

Mr. President, actually, I came to the floor for a different reason. It is probably the most awkward situation I have been in before. Since they cut me down to 8½ minutes, I will have to come back to the floor and embarrass a politician who is doing a good job in an awkward situation. First of all, I believe that we have a President in President Trump who is doing a great job.

I look around and I see what is happening to us. We are now a leader in the free world again. All kinds of things have happened that are very good. Yet I have to say the Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, if I could single out three people in the U.S. Senate whom I respect more, he would be among those.

I am fortunate enough to have known him since the middle eighties, back during the Reagan administration. I knew him very well when he was elected the first time in 1986. Here is a guy who is an outstanding guy, who does things, gets things done. Look at his accomplishments as Attorney General. In that short period of time, what he has done is, he has been working to crack down on immigration. He has performed some real miracles there, and he has worked on protecting law enforcement. In fact, a law enforcement group came out and singled him out as the most prominent and most popular Attorney General we have had. Look at what he has done in his time, what he has introduced. Child abuse—

he did the Child Abuse Act. He did it himself. Nobody else helped him. His quote was: “There is no higher duty than protecting our Nation’s children.”

The Prison Rape Elimination Act, the first Federal law dealing with sexual assault on prisoners. A lot of those are young prisoners. We all know the stories. He is the guy who passed that, and nobody else was in on that deal—just him. Forensic sciences, he has been able to be a champion there.

I would have to say that the major thing he did during the time in his early years was that he was the one who was standing up against segregation. He was the alternative who single-handedly put himself in a situation where he was talking on the bad guys, and he was desegregating the schools in Alabama. He was key to the prosecu-
Mr. ENZI. I thank the Senator for yielding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. I was happy to yield.

Good to see you.

Mr. ENZI. I want to say a few words about ObamaCare. If you ask most people in this country “What is ObamaCare?” my guess is, they probably wouldn’t know. Those who do might think it has something to do with the exchanges that would allow people to have coverage who don’t have coverage on their own. They are not in a large group plan and they are not insured by their employer, They are not covered by Medicaid. They are not covered by Medicare. They might be a veteran. And 5 or 6 or 7 percent of the people today get their coverage from something called the exchanges.

We have large purchasing pools in each State that are insured by private health insurance. That was not invented by Barack Obama. People call it Obamacare, but its roots go back well before he was a United States Senator, much less before he was President of the United States. The idea of these large purchasing pools in each State—called exchanges—dates back as far as the foundation idea—that is, the exchange would be created, which is just a large purchasing pool for people who don’t have coverage.

So the idea of the exchanges originally suggested by Hillary were introduced in the United States Senate by a Republican Senator from Rhode Island named John Chafee, who was a very good man, a marine veteran, a former Governor, who gave a great speech. He had a great deal of credibility, and a greatly admired U.S. Senator. He offered legislation to do five things. As far as I can tell, all ideas were suggested by the Heritage Foundation.

No. 1. create purchasing pools in every State. People who didn’t have coverage could buy their coverage as a member of a much larger purchasing pool and by doing that, bring down the cost of coverage.

The second thing in the Chafee legislation in 1993 was to allow folks who bought their coverage through the exchanges to be eligible for a slight tax credit—the lower their income, the bigger the tax credit. When their income reached a certain level, the tax credit would go away.

The third component of the Chafee proposal—again, going back to Heritage—was the idea of individual mandates. You can’t make people get coverage, but in the case of the Chafee legislation, they had to pay a fine. As it turns out, it was not a very big fine, and it went up over time but not quickly and not very high. So did some people who were not covering people with preexisting conditions—they had to pay a fine. The source of those ideas was originally the Heritage Foundation. I actually think they are good ideas. I thought they were good ideas then, and I think they are good ideas now.

Somewhere between 1993 and 2009, we debated on this floor the Affordable Care Act, including exchanges, tax credits, the individual mandate, the employer mandate, a prohibition against insurance companies not covering people with preexisting conditions—somewhere between 1993 and the debate here in 2009 on the Affordable Care Act, a Governor of Massachusetts said: Why don’t we try to be the first State to provide healthcare coverage for everybody? And they took that Chafee legislation—the Heritage Foundation idea—dusted it off, and turned it into RomneyCare. It actually worked pretty well. They sure covered a whole lot of people in that State who hadn’t been covered before. They covered a lot of people who were not eligible for Medicaid, not eligible for Medicare, maybe not a veteran. They were not receiving coverage from a large group plan, so they now had an option to get coverage in the exchanges.

For those who chose not to in Massachusetts, they had to pay a fine. As it turns out, it was not a very big fine, and it went up over time but not quickly and not very high. So did some people who were young and healthy get coverage in the exchanges in Massachusetts? Yes. If you asked some of the people who were involved with Governor Romney at that time, they would say that if they had to do it over again, the fine would have started a little bigger and gone up a little faster in order to make sure healthier, insurable people would be left with a tough mix of people to insure. Financially, that would be very challenging for health insurance companies. They said: We need something to ensure that young, healthy people get their coverage through the exchanges.

The fourth piece of the 1993 legislation offered by Senator Chafee was that employers of a certain size, with a certain number of employees, have to cover their employees. You don’t have to cover them 100 percent for their insurance and their family’s insurance, but they have to be covered with insurance and have access to health insurance through their employer.

The fifth and last piece of ObamaCare, which is really the Heritage Foundation’s idea, was a prohibition against health insurance companies saying to people who have a preexisting condition—they had to cover people with preexisting conditions in these exchanges.

That is what people think of when they think about ObamaCare. Barack Obama is a bright guy. I knew him before he was a U.S. Senator. I knew him when he was a State Senator. He didn’t invent it. It was not made up in his head. The source of those ideas was originally the Heritage Foundation. I actually think they are good ideas. I thought they were good ideas then, and I think they are good ideas now.
still call ObamaCare, but it is something else. It is really RomneyCare. It is really ChafeeCare. It is really HeritageCare. But it ain’t ObamaCare. It is a market-based idea to get coverage for people. I think it happens to be a good idea.

Right now, this administration has done their dead level best to destabilize the exchanges. They made it a question of whether the individual mandates will be enforced. If young, healthy people decline to sign up for coverage, will there be a fine they would have to pay? Will it go up over time? This administration has thrown big doubt on that. As a result, a lot of young people haven’t signed up. They are not sure they really need to.

We had something in place for a couple of years called CRAs, cost-sharing arrangements. Think, if you will, about people who are buying their healthcare coverage on the exchanges. Their income is under 250 percent of poverty. For a while, they have been able to get help paying down their copays and their deductibles when they get their coverage on the exchanges.

What this administration has sought to do is throw doubt on whether those cost-sharing arrangements will continue. What has happened as a result is the health insurance companies, which lost their shirts in 2014, raised premiums, deductibles, and copays. They lost money again in 2015, but less. They raised premiums, deductibles, and copays, and lost money in 2016, but less. Some of them even actually made some money. They were not in a death spiral. According to Standard and Poor’s, they were actually coming to a stronger financial position.

Enter into that this administration throwing doubt on whether the exchange are going to be around, the individual mandate is going to be enforced, these cost-sharing reductions are going to cease to be enforced. That is why a lot of the health insurance companies in this country decided they are going to get out in different States. They are not going to offer coverage in a number of States, a number of counties. That is why. Businesses need certainty and they need predictability, and that includes health insurance costs. Frankly, they didn’t have that certainty and predictability.

If we are smart about it, we will hit the “pause” button and maybe, ideally, the individual mandate as it is, and if we can’t get the votes for that, the something that works at least as well as the individual mandate in making sure people—healthy people too—get their coverage on the exchanges if they are eligible.

The second thing to do is reinsurance. Senator Kaine, myself, and others, including some recovering Governors who serve here in the Senate, have cosponsored legislation that we have described as reinsurance. I am told it has been around forever in the insurance business, and it is one of the reasons the Medicare Part D drug program is successful and works.

The way it works, quite simply, is this: Say an individual who has serious medical problems would have the liability in the exchanges. They first start in 2018. In 2018, 2019, and 2020, for a person who has significant health challenges and is expensive to insure, the first $50,000 of their cost to the insurer in a year would be paid by the insurer. Between $50,000 and $500,000 for one individual for one year, the Federal Government would pay 80 percent of that. It is reinsurance.

For anything over that in those 3 years, 2018 through 2020, the first 3 years, anything between $50 and $500,000, the Federal Government would pay 80 percent. Starting in 2021 and beyond, the reinsurance program would continue, but it would be a little bit different. In 2021 and beyond, the first $100,000 of costs incurred by an individual covered by a policy in the exchange—the first $100,000 would be on the insurance company. Anything between $100,000 and $500,000 in one year for that individual, 80 percent of that cost would be borne by the Federal Government. Anything above $500,000 from 2021 and beyond would be borne, again, by the insurance company. It is called reinsurance.

The last piece of the three is to make it clear that these cost-sharing reductions are reduced and make sure that the copays and the deductibles will continue to be subsidized by the Federal Government. It will reduce the out-of-pocket costs for people whose income is below 250 percent of poverty.

If we do those three things, the insurance companies will stabilize the exchanges. They will have a healthy group of people to insure. More insurance companies will come in to provide policies and coverage leads to competition. The competition leads to better quality coverage, and the competition leads to lower prices—lower prices for individuals who are getting their coverage in the exchanges and lower prices, we are told, for Uncle Sam. The Federal Government, the costs to the Treasury, will be reduced, as well, if we do these three things.

Again, we are told by the health insurance companies that have been reluctant to stay in the exchanges, if we do those three things, we would reduce the cost of premiums in the exchanges by 25 to 35 percent. That helps individuals get their coverage, and it helps the government, too, in reducing our exposure. I think that makes a lot of sense.

Unfortunately, what our colleagues here on the floor are talking about—and the rumors we hear about the kind of skinny repeal, it doesn’t stabilize the exchanges. It does more to destabilize the exchanges. That isn’t where we need to go.

We need to hit the pause button and say: Let’s stabilize the exchanges, and then let’s revert to regular order. People have ideas on health insurance.

Let’s introduce bills. Let’s have hearings with witnesses who come in and say what is good or what is bad. The witnesses could include Governors, health insurance folks, providers, normal people.

Let’s have a debate. Let Members offer amendments in committee, have votes, report the bills out, and eventually bring them here and go through the same thing. We call that regular order. John McCain, in his return speech yesterday—thank God he is back—called again and again for return to regular order. We need to do that, and if we do, we will end up not with a Democratic victory or a Republican victory or a Trump victory, we might win a victory for democracy and actually doing what is right and what needs to be done. That, most of all, is what we need to do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Senator Casey’s motion to strike provisions from TrumpCare that would harm individuals with disabilities by reducing their access to affordable healthcare or limiting coverage or benefits under Medicaid or in the private health insurance market.

Today, as Senator Casey noted, we celebrate the 27th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, recognizing the enormous contributions that Americans who experience disabilities have made in communities in New Hampshire and across our Nation.

Unfortunately, Senate Republicans are proposing massive cuts to traditional Medicaid, which threaten the support that individuals who experience disabilities need to thrive in their homes, their schools, and their communities.

A few weeks ago, I visited an organization called Granite State Independent Living in Concord, NH. It is a nonprofit that helps individuals with disabilities to live independently and have an independent life for themselves. What struck me the most was the consistent theme that I heard over and over from...
different people who experience different disabilities. They said that because of services like personal care attendants, transportation help, and other medical supports, they were able to work and live more independent lives.

Many shared their biggest fears about what would happen if they didn’t receive the support—a real possibility if plans to decimate Medicaid go into effect. Their biggest fear is that independence would go away. There were fears of becoming a burden for their families or having family members have to give up their jobs or having to be put in a nursing home because that would be the only way they could survive.

Person after person talked about how much they wanted to contribute to American life—to their communities, to their States, and to our economy. I kept thinking that all of these people were expressing such an American value to roll up their sleeves, do everything they could to make a difference, to be self-sufficient, to be independent.

The ability for Americans who experience disabilities to reach their full potential and to realize their potential at risk with some of these TrumpCare proposals, and just a little while ago on the floor, I heard a discussion that perhaps there might be a proposal put forward on the floor—maybe this evening—that would record a sense of the Senate that the Senate wants to make sure that whatever action it takes will not hurt people with disabilities. It will support people with disabilities.

There is no doubt that a kind word can go a long way on a difficult day, but as someone who has raised a child who has experienced severe disabilities, as someone who has spent a lot of time talking to people with disabilities and their families, I can tell you that sympathy can only go so far.

The people I know who experience disabilities want to do everything they can to support themselves, to be independent, to be able to reach their full potential. There is a difference between charity and justice, and while none of us would ever reject the kindness that so many people demonstrate to people with disabilities, what we really should be working toward is making sure people with disabilities have the same access as every other American to education and a workforce that will allow them to have whatever American wants, which is an independent life where they are free to chart their own course, support themselves, move forward.

We celebrate the 27th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act today—one of our great moments in this country, as we have reminded ourselves of our Founders’ vision. Our Founders said that every single person counts, and while they didn’t honor that completely at our founding, while they did not count everyone at first, they have had the confidence that every generation of Americans would move forward, bringing in more and more people from the margins into the heart and soul of our democracy, our communities, our economy, and, in doing that, we would unleash the talent and energy of more and more Americans with disabilities that has been the secret of our country’s success. It is our vision that continues to drive us forward.

On this day of all days, when we celebrate the progress we have made to honor the hope and productivity of Americans who experience disabilities, the last thing we should do is pull the rug out from under those very people by decimating the Medicaid Program that provides them the kind of support that actually allows them to be free, to work hard, to be with their families, to make a difference, to be treated like every other American, to have the rights of every other American, and to feel like every other American.

We can’t afford to go back to the days when we marginalized or didn’t assist some of our most vulnerable people—people who want to participate and contribute to their communities and to the country they love. So I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of Senator Casey’s motion and make clear that individuals with disabilities deserve the right to receive the support they need at home, at school, and in their communities, so they can be free and thrive.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I have listened very carefully to the majority leader and his requests that we come forward and bring amendments to the floor—all of our ideas about how we can improve our healthcare system so that this would be an opportunity through budget reconciliation for us to deal with those issues.

I asked my staff to prepare amendments in order to protect the Medicaid system from cuts. I asked my staff to prepare amendments to protect the essential health benefits that are in the Affordable Care Act because it is important that we preserve those benefits, whether it is mental health and addiction services or one that is particularly important to Maryland; that is, pediatric dental. In Maryland, we all recall the loss of a 12-year-old not too many years ago because he couldn’t get dental care—Deamont Driver.

I asked my staff to take a look at preparing amendments to protect minority health and health disparities because the Affordable Care Act made tremendous advancements in trying to close that gap on the disparities in minority health and health disparities. I asked my staff to take a look at the tax provisions because we want to make sure that we are not giving tax breaks to the companies at the expense of cutting the Medicaid system. I asked them to look at this in a lot of different ways.

Listening to the majority leader, I also have introduced legislation that I will talk about that could build on the Affordable Care Act, and I was wondering what bill I should amend? What is the bill that we are considering? It is not the bill that Senator McConnel brought forward. It was defeated. It is not the repeal—and we are starting with a blank slate—because that was defeated. I don’t believe it is the House bill because that has been discredited, called a mean bill by the majority leader, as well as by Members of this body, who said it has no chance of passing. So my dilemma is that I don’t know what I should be amending.

I expect we will get to see another bill somewhere along the process with virtually no notice, any opportunity to read and no opportunity to amend, but the majority leader says I am going to have that opportunity. Yet we don’t know what the bill is that I am supposed to be addressing my amendments to.

We know that all the bills we have seen today—every single one from the Republicans—have been scored by the Congressional Budget Office as to tens of millions of Americans losing their insurance coverage—tens of millions. I understand it is about 33 million if we just repeal the Affordable Care Act, 22 million if we use the type of replacement that the majority leader was suggesting. All of those move in the wrong direction.

We also know that in every one of these proposals to date, insurance premiums are going to go up, not down.

That is one thing I have heard from my constituents. They would like to see us bring down the growth rate of health insurance costs and healthcare, not increase it. So, yes, I would like to be able to offer amendments, but I don’t know what to offer amendments to.

I also am concerned when I see that every one of the bills that have been suggested by the Republicans would reverse the protections that we put in law against the wrong practices—the discriminatory practices—of insurance companies. I have talked to many of my constituents who tell me that if we reimpose caps, either yearly or lifetime—they have the circumstance where their child was born with a disability and that cap would have been reached. That would have been coverage—tens of millions—they would be left without insurance coverage. They tell me about how pre-existing conditions could be jeopardized. All of us have some form of pre-existing condition, and, on a lot of these plans that are being suggested where you could choose the type of coverage you want, insurance companies are not going to offer the benefits you need. People who have challenges are going to be most discriminated against. So I don’t quite understand if it is expected within a matter of months—that they would be left without insurance coverage.

I yield back to the Majority Leader.
I must state that there is a common theme here, and we know it. We know that there is now talk that the majority leader might bring up, sometime during this process, what has been called in the press a “skinny bill. I call it the last nail of the Affordable Care Act, and, in fact, I am afraid it might be a fast death of the Affordable Care Act because, if the reports are accurate, one of the provisions that the majority leader is looking to bring in as the final nail in what we are talking about is Medicaid cuts, and to eliminate that requirement that companies have to provide insurance coverage to their employees and individuals must have coverage.

Now that seems innocent enough, except for the tens of millions who are going to lose their insurance coverage—people who are working for companies that decide to terminate their policies, healthy people who decide not to buy insurance policies. I believe you are going to find that there still will be millions of people losing their insurance coverage, and that is unacceptable. But it goes beyond that. That proposal will also increase premium costs by a very large percent. Why?

The point about this for a moment. If you don’t have to buy insurance and you are young and healthy, are you going to buy insurance or not? Many will say no until they need the insurance, and then they will buy the insurance. Actuaries tell us that without the requirement to have insurance, the insurance pools will contain a very high percentage of adverse risks—people at higher risk—and when that happens, the purpose of insurance to spread the risk is no longer done. It means premiums will go up dramatically. That doesn’t help the people who are going to need it.

What you also find when you eliminate this requirement is that people get what we call job locked. They may have a company that provides health benefits, but now they may have to leave that company. But if they want to leave that company and start a job or go to another job that doesn’t have insurance, they are locked into where they work. All of that adds to anxiety, adds to lack of coverage, adds to people who don’t have health insurance, adds to people not getting adequate healthcare, adds to bankruptcies, adds to the people who are addressed with the Affordable Care Act.

But there is another explanation here. Maybe this is just a shell bill that is going to go back—hopefully, as the Republicans believe, but I hope it does not happen—to the House, and then we will put in the Medicaid cuts and the tax relief and all the other things that are not in the bill. This is just a shell to get us back to one of the bills that couldn’t get the votes here on the floor. We have a few millions of people who will lose their insurance coverage, premiums will go up, and insurance companies arbitrary and discriminatory practices will return.

Every one of these proposals—every single one—moves us in the wrong direction in healthcare. We recognize that we can improve our healthcare system. I am for improving our healthcare system. I think we can work together—Democrats and Republicans—to improve our healthcare system.

So here is my request: Vote for the Casey motion. Why? For two reasons. One, I would hope that on this anniversary of the ADA, or the Americans with Disabilities Act, we want to do no harm to those with disabilities in our healthcare system and they would have adequate coverage. I was in a celebration over the weekend in Baltimore City with the disabilities community. We celebrated one of the great victories in America, the Americans with Disabilities Act—a bipartisan bill, with Democrats and Republicans coming together in a proud moment, in the best traditions of the Senate, to say that we were insured that will be treated fairly in America. On this day we should adopt the Casey motion on the issue of protecting people with disabilities.

But there is a second issue here. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator’s time has expired.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 2 additional minutes.

Mr. CARDIN. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. I will try to conclude my remarks. On this day that we are celebrating the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, let’s do right by that. We celebrated one of the great victories in America, the Americans with Disabilities Act—a bipartisan bill that sends it back to committee so we can use the regular process, as Senator MCCAINE talked about yesterday. Let’s have the committee hearings, as Senator ALEXANDER talked about. Let’s have the hearings and work it back together. I introduced legislation that would bring down the cost of healthcare and lower the rate of increase of individual premiums. I do that by suggesting more competition in the individual marketplace, by having a public option, by providing stronger subsidies to lower income families, by making sure that cost-sharing is in fact paid for so we don’t have that uncertainty, with the reimbursement that Senator CARRER was talking about to deal with the overall cost of healthcare, by dealing with prescription drug costs, and by dealing with coordinated care so that we can deal with the whole patient rather than their individual disease.

All of those issues would improve the Affordable Care Act, but before we get there, we have to get off of this train. We have to stop this disastrous course. I am going to do everything in my power to make sure that, as the bill comes forward, we stop it right here, and then work together, Democrats and Republicans, to improve our healthcare system, not to take away insurance coverage and increase costs for so many Americans.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senator CASEY’s motion protecting people with disabilities.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I am sorry. There is no Democratic time remaining.

The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about my amendment, Heller amendment No. 288.

My amendment reinforces the important role Medicaid has played in my home State and in the States of many of my colleagues here today.

Let me explain the impact Medicaid has had on the State of Nevada. As many of you know, the State of Nevada was the first to expand Medicaid. Before Nevada made that decision, the State’s uninsured rate was 23 percent, and it was one of the highest in the country. So think about that for a minute. One in four Nevadans did not have healthcare coverage. Under expanded Medicaid today, Nevadans’ uninsured rate is between 31 and 12 percent. I have also seen the number of uninsured people living in Nevada’s rural communities cut in half, and I have seen major gains with the number of children in our State with health coverage.

In fact, Nevada has seen one of the most significant decreases in uninsured children in the country. In 2013, our State had the highest rate of uninsured children in the country. In 2013, the State’s uninsured rate is between 31 and 12 percent. I have also seen the number of uninsured people living in Nevada’s rural communities cut in half, and I have seen major gains with the number of children in our State with health coverage.

Over the past few months, I have had the privilege of meeting with Nevadans here in Washington, DC, as well as back home, to discuss healthcare. The resounding message I continue to hear is that, because of Medicaid expansion, more than 200,000 Nevadans have health insurance today who otherwise wouldn’t. The other resounding message I hear is that drastic cuts to the Medicaid Program threaten the critical services that Nevadans rely on.

Let me read you a letter I received from a woman in Las Vegas. She said:

My oldest child has Down Syndrome and has depended on Medicaid since she was born, and was denied healthcare because of preexisting conditions that she was born with. My husband and I are hardworking Americans. We started our own business 5 years ago and have seen that business grow and become more successful every year. We do not rely on the government for assistance, other than Medicaid coverage. Without it, we would be unable to afford the numerous appointments with specialists and surgeries that keep our daughter happy, healthy, and progressing in life.
July 26, 2017

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE S4261

This is one example of the real stories behind the numbers, and I want to do everything I can to make sure they are protected and their coverage is not threatened. I want to make sure their daughter has healthcare coverage today and tomorrow.

Medicaid also plays a crucial role in Nevada when it comes to covering the elderly and people with disabilities. More than 30,000 of Nevada’s seniors receive healthcare through Medicaid, including nursing home care and services that allow them to live at home. In fact, more than half of Nevada’s nursing home residents are covered by Medicaid. Nearly 50,000 people with disabilities in Nevada now have access to care that helps them live independently, thanks to Medicaid.

Karen from Henderson recently contacted me and said that her adult son has MS and depends on Medicaid to help cover the cost of his medication, which costs $300 per month. Without Medicaid, he most likely would not be able to function independently and productively.

One Nevadan traveled all the way from Las Vegas to talk with me about her two sons with cystic fibrosis. She is worried about any legislation that would jeopardize access to care for people like her sons, whose struggles mirror the ones her sons are struggling with.

In total, over 631,000 people in Nevada are covered by the Medicaid Program. That is low-income children, pregnant women, seniors, and people with disabilities. It is why I have said since the beginning of the healthcare debate, that I will only support a solution that protects Nevada’s most vulnerable. The House bill didn’t go far enough to do that, and neither did the Senate’s bill, and that is why I voted against it last night.

Nevada faces unique challenges when it comes to healthcare. I have spent the past few months trying to find ways to get Nevadans who depend on Medicaid and provide coverage for those with preexisting conditions, all the while bringing down costs and improving quality and access to care. I have also been having discussions with Nevadans in Washington and back home to hear from them how potential changes could impact their care.

Whether it is a mom in Reno who has a son with a heart condition and is terrified about the future of his treatments, or a mom in Las Vegas who came all the way to DC because they are worried that their patients could lose coverage, I have been listening and I do understand.

Make no mistake, ObamaCare needs fixing. It has led to higher costs and fewer choices in my State. For the past 7 years, I have said that we need more competition to drive down costs and increase competition for Nevadans. My discussions with Nevadans in Washington and Reno have also allowed me the opportunity to hear from them how potential changes could impact their care. I believe we can achieve these goals while recognizing the role that Medicaid plays in our States and ensuring that those who have coverage today are protected. My role as a Senator is doing the very best I can for my State, and that means standing up for Nevadans who today depend on Medicaid. We are having this debate because I do believe there are commonsense solutions that can improve our healthcare system, and I voted to give us the opportunity to have that discussion and to fight for them. But, as I have said all along, health care is balanced on the backs of Nevada’s low-income families and sickest individuals. That is something I cannot and I will not stand for.

We can work to find a way to lower costs, increase choices, and improve the quality of care for Nevadans everywhere, but we can do it in a way that also protects our most vulnerable. That is why for the past few months I have been working with my colleagues in the Senate to find the unique challenges expansion States face, and we have been fighting for solutions that will protect those who currently rely on the Medicaid Program.

It hasn’t been easy, but that is the way it must be, and that is OK. I am here to roll up my sleeves, get to work, and fight for policies that will be in the best interests of all Nevadans. So I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment, Heller No. 288, which is a compromise to the Medicaid in our States. We have much work ahead of us to do to improve the healthcare system for Nevadans and Americans across this country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I speak in support of Senator CASEY’s motion protecting people with disabilities.

It is appalling that the Republican Party is working to strip healthcare from the disability community on the very anniversary of the day when we passed monumental legislation that improved the lives of Americans with disabilities.

It was 27 years ago that the Americans with Disabilities Act—one of the most important pieces of legislation of our time—was signed into law, and it is a shame that as we celebrate our great work and achievement, we are moving backward rather than building on the progress our community has worked so hard on to make it so Americans with disabilities can live healthy, productive, independent lives. We cannot afford to move backward, and I will not sit quietly by as legislation that happen and neither will my constituents.

I have heard from thousands of Illinoisans who are struggling to understand why lawmakers are considering ripping away the care that is keeping them alive and allowing them to be independent and productive members of our community. I want to share just one of their stories with you.

It is about a woman by the name of Jessica Baker, from Mascoutah, IL. Nearly 10 years ago, when she was a healthy and young 19-year-old, her entire life changed. Jessica was driving on the highway on a foggy morning. Because of the lack of visibility on the road, a truck driver ahead of her ran through two cars. Jessica, just feet behind the truck, never saw the brake light go off. She struck that semi-truck and became part of a 20-car pile-up. This young, healthy woman’s life completely changed.

Jessica is now 29 years old and is a quadriplegic. She depends on Medicaid for her healthcare needs. She is living an independent life and has done well under the ACA. Now she fears she will lose her care that the law has helped her to receive. Jessica was a healthy, vital person whose life changed in an instant.

I understand how that feels. I went from being a soldier—one of the most decorated soldiers and people in this room—to becoming wheelchair-bound. So many of our brave men and women take that risk every single day, and we must be completely honest with ourselves as any American’s life can be ripped away in the blink of an eye. The healthy can become sick, and the able-bodied can become disabled in a single moment. Any one of us can end up at the mercy of our healthcare system.

After her accident, Jessica had to fight to get her healthcare needs met so she could live as a thriving young person. Now Senate Republicans and President Trump are threatening her life by eliminating her access to care. As proud as I am to be a part of the Senate Chamber, which passed the monumental ADA, I am also appalled by what the Republicans in this body are doing today.

Yesterday’s vote to proceed on a debate on a bill that would rob tens of thousands of people of their access to care is utterly shameful. It would jeopardize a program that 1 in 10 veterans, 2 out of 3 nursing home residents, and children with autism, Down syndrome, and special needs depend on. That is simply unacceptable. Senate Republicans have done everything they can to hide their legislation from the American people, crafting it in secret, behind closed doors. However, one thing remains clear; that the fight to protect healthcare is not over.

This is the time for the American people to keep speaking up, to make their voices heard, and Senate Republicans must listen. They must listen to their constituents and to the most vulnerable among us, like the members of the disability community who have been here day after day, literally, fighting for their lives. Day after day, I see people who come into my office who say: Save me. Save my child. Save our lives.

That is why I am working every single day to not only push back against these Republican efforts to strip away care from those who need it the most.
but also to bring people together on commonsense improvements to our current healthcare system. We cannot be a nation that says: If you are sick or ill, we are going to leave you behind. That is simply not who we are. We are the greatest democracy on the face of the earth, and we do not leave our most vulnerable behind.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Tillis). The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I know the Chair said I may speak for a few minutes before the vote. I spoke earlier so I will not reiterate every argument.

Really, what we are doing with this particular amendment is sending this legislation to the Finance Committee so as to focus it as the motion itself says: When this bill would be recommitted to the Finance Committee, the Finance Committee could examine it from that perspective. In this case, people with disabilities and to focus on changes that could be made in order to prevent harm to individuals with disabilities as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The reason we mention that particularly is that the seminal piece of legislation to protect people with disabilities who would be harmed by this legislation because you cannot just have rights that are guaranteed without the support for those rights. Medicaid provides that support. So folks, if they want to live at home or if they want to live in a community-based setting, can do that, but they can only do that with the help of Medicaid. It is a pretty simple amendment to make sure there is some adequate review of the impact on Americans with disabilities.

We have, in Pennsylvania, for example, over 720,000 people who have a disability and depend upon Medicaid. I want to make sure every one of those Pennsylvanians has all of the protections we say we are guaranteeing with disability legislation—with laws like the Americans with Disabilities Act and with the protections Medicaid provides.

This is critically important. At a time when we are talking about freedom and liberty in the context of healthcare, I would hope we would take steps to guarantee that freedom and liberty apply to those with disabilities so that the Americans with Disabilities Act has enshrined in our law, they may be able to choose the kind of places they want to live and choose the settings within which they want to live their lives, to be able to have the freedom to choose the way of the support they get from Medicaid. I hope that is something that is reasonable enough so as to get support from both sides of the aisle.

I know my friend from Nevada is offering a sense motion in the next vote. I just do not think that a sense of the Senate, in any way, is commensurate with the gravity of this problem. There is a time and a place for a sense of the Senate—when we are expressing a sentiment that is bipartisan—but we need more than sentimentality here. We need more than good wishes. We need to make sure we get this policy right as it relates to people with disabilities.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

VOTE ON MOTION TO COMMIT

The question occurs on agreeing to the Casey motion to commit. The order of the day for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 51, as follows:

Rolacll Vote No. 171 Leg.)

YEAS—48

Alexander
Baldwin
Bennet
Brown
Cantwell
Cardin
Cortez Masto
Donnelly
Duckworth
Durbin
Feinstein
Franken
Heller
Hoeven
Hogan
Johnson
Kaine
Klobuchar
Leahy
Lankford
Lugar
McCain
McCracken
McCaskill
Murphy
Nelson
Portman
Peters
Reed
Reid
Romanoff
Schumer
Schatz
Schumer
Schrader
Shaheen
Snowe
Stabenow
Sasse
Sasse
Sasse
Schneider
Shelby
Sullivan
Tai
Tillis
Toomey
Wicker
Wickers
Whitehouse
Wyden
YEAS—48

NOT VOTING—1

Johnson

The motion was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 28B

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes equally divided before the vote on the Heller amendment. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I have an amendment at the desk that would express the importance of Medicaid in our individual States. I would like to read from it two provisions that I think are important to this whole body; that is, the Senate prioritizes “Medicaid services for individuals who have the greatest medical need, includ-

ing individuals with disabilities”; also, that we “should not consider legislation that reduces or eliminates benefits or coverage for individuals who are currently eligible for Medicaid.”

That is the amendment. I want everyone to express for their own States the importance that the Medicaid Program is for their States, and I would urge a “yes” vote from my colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I raise a point of order that the pending amendment violates section 313(b)(1)(A) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

I am glad that the Senator from Nevada is concerned about Medicaid, but I would remind the Senate that yesterday the vast majority of Republicans voted to throw 15 million people off of Medicaid on their way to end health insurance for 22 million Americans.

Our job as a nation is to guarantee healthcare to every man, woman, and child and join the rest of the industrialized world, not throw disabled children off of the healthcare they currently have.

I urge a “no” vote.

Mr. President, I raise a point of order that the pending amendment violates section 313(b)(1)(A) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the waiver provisions of applicable budget resolutions, I move to waive all applicable sections of that act and applicable budget resolutions for purposes of amendment No. 288 and, if adopted, for the provisions of the adopted amendment included in any subsequent amendment to H.R. 1628 and any amendment between Houses or conference report thereon, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 10, nays 90, as follows:

(Rollcall Vote No. 172 Leg.)

YEAS—10

Capito
Cassidy
Collins
Enzi
Ernst
Johnson

NAYS—90

Alexander
Baldwin
Barron
Boozman
Blumenthal
Booher
Brown
Cantwell
Cardin
Carrier
Cochran
Collins
Corker
Cornyn
Cotton
Crappo
Cruc
Daines
Enzi
Ernst
Flake

S2262 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE July 26, 2017
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. Ernst). On this vote, the yeses are 10, the nays are 90.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The point of order is sustained and the amendment falls.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority senators agree to amend the amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 340, AS MODIFIED, TO AMENDMENT NO. 267

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment numbered 340, as modified, to Amendment No. 267.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCConnell], for Mr. DAINEs, proposes an amendment numbered 340, as modified, to Amendment No. 267.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide for comprehensive health insurance coverage for all United States residents, improved health care delivery, and other purposes.)

Strike all after the first word and, insert the following:

SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Sec. 101. Short title.

Sec. 102. Benefits and portability.

Sec. 103. Qualification of participating providers.

Sec. 104. Prohibition against duplicating coverage.

TI TLE I—ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS

Sec. 101. Eligibility and registration.

Sec. 102. Benefits and portability.

Sec. 103. Qualification of participating providers.

Sec. 104. Prohibition against duplicating coverage.

TI TLE II—FINANCES

Subtitle A—Budgeting and Payments

Sec. 201. Budgeting process.

Sec. 202. Payment of providers and health care clinicians.

Sec. 203. Payment for long-term care.

Sec. 204. Medical staff services.

Sec. 205. Payment for prescription medications, medical supplies, and medically necessary assistive adaptive equipment.

Sec. 206. Consultation in establishing reimbursement levels.

Subtitle B—Funding

Sec. 211. Overview: funding the Medicare For All Program.

Sec. 212. Appropriations for existing programs.

TI TLE III—ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 301. Public administration; appointment of Director.

Sec. 302. Office of Quality Control.

Sec. 303. Regional and State administration; employment of displaced clerical workers.

Sec. 304. Confidential electronic patient record system.

Sec. 305. National Board of Universal Quality and Access.

TI TLE IV—ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 401. Treatment of VA and IHS health programs.

Sec. 402. Public health and prevention.

Sec. 403. Reduction in health disparities.

TI TLE V—EFFECTIVE DATE

Sec. 501. Effective date.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS AND TERMS.

In this Act:

(a) MEDICARE FOR ALL PROGRAM; PROGRAM.—The terms "Medicare For All Program" and "Program" mean the program of benefits provided under this Act and, unless the context otherwise requires, the Secretary with respect to functions relating to carrying out this Act.

(b) NATIONAL BOARD OF UNIVERSAL QUALITY AND ACCESS.—The term "National Board of Universal Quality and Access" means such Board established under section 305.

(c) REGIONAL OFFICE.—The term "regional office" means a regional office established under section 303.

(d) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(e) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means, in relation to the Program, the Director appointed under section 301.

TI TLE I—ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS

SEC. 101. ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—All individuals residing in the United States (including any territory or possession of the United States) are eligible to enroll in the Medicare For All Program entitling them to a universal, best quality standard of care. Each such individual shall receive a card with a unique identifier. An individual's Social Security number shall not be used for purposes of registration under this section.

(b) REGISTRATION.—Individuals and families shall receive a Medicare For All Program Card in the mail, after filling out a Medicare For All Program application form at a health care provider. Such application form shall be no more than 2 pages long.

(c) PRESUMPTION.—Individuals who present themselves for covered services from a participating provider shall be presumed to be eligible for benefits under this Act, but shall complete an application for benefits in order to receive a Medicare For All Program Card and have payment made for such benefits.

(d) RESIDENCY CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall promulgate a rule that provides criteria for determining residency for eligibility purposes under the Medicare For All Program.

(e) COVERAGE FOR VISITORS.—The Secretary shall promulgate a rule regarding visitors from countries who seek pre-medicated non-emergency surgical procedures. Such a rule should facilitate the establishment of country-to-country reimbursement arrangements or self pay arrangements between the visitor and the provider of care.

SEC. 102. BENEFITS AND PORTABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The health care benefits under this Act cover all medically necessary services, including at least the following:

(b) QUALITY STANDARDS.—(1) Not-for-profit institutions. Private physicians, private clinics, and private health care providers shall continue to operate as private entities, but are prohibited from being investor owned.

(2) CONVERSION OF INVESTOR-OWNED PROVIDERS.—For-profit providers of care opting to participate shall be required to convert to not-for-profit status.

(3) PRIVATIZED DELIVERY OF CARE REQUIREMENTS.—For-profit providers of care that convert to non-profit status shall remain privately owned and operated entities.

(4) COMPENSATION FOR CONVERSION.—The owner of such a provider shall be compensated for reasonable financial losses incurred as a result of the conversion from for-profit to non-profit status.

(5) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be appropriated from the Treasury such sums as are necessary to compensate investor-owned providers as provided for under paragraph (3).

(6) REQUIREMENTS.—The payments to owners of converting for-profit providers shall occur during a 15-year period, through the sale of U.S. Treasury bonds for conversions under paragraph (3) shall not be made for loss of business profits.

(7) MECHANISM FOR CONVERSION.—The Secretary shall promulgate a rule to provide a mechanism to further the timely, efficient, and feasible conversion of for-profit providers of care.

(8) QUALITY STANDARDS.—

(a) IN GENERAL.—Health care delivery facilities must meet State quality and licensing guidelines as a condition of participation under such program, including guidelines regarding safe staffing and quality of care.

(b) LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS.—Participating clinicians must be licensed in their State of practice and meet the quality standards for their area of care. No clinician whose license is under suspension or who is...
under disciplinary action in any State may be a participating provider.

(c) Participation of Health Maintenance Organizations.—

(1) NON-PROFIT.—Non-profit health maintenance organizations that deliver care in their own facilities and employ clinicians on a salaried basis may participate in the program by receiving global budgets or capital payments as specified in section 202.

(2) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS.—Other health maintenance organizations which principally contract to pay for services delivered by non-employees shall be classified as insurance plans. Such organizations shall not be participating providers, subject to the regulations promulgated by reason of section 104(a) (relating to prohibition against duplicating coverage).

(b) MAINTENANCE OF CHOICE.—Patients shall have free choice of participating physicians and other clinicians, hospitals, and inpatient care facilities.

SEC. 104. PROHIBITION AGAINST DuplicATING COVERAGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It is unlawful for a private health maintenance organization or entity to sell health insurance coverage that duplicates the benefits provided under this Act.

(b) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed as prohibiting the sale of health insurance coverage for any additional benefits not covered by this Act, such as for cosmetic surgery or other services and items that are not medically necessary.

TITLE II—FINANCES

Subtitle A—Budgeting and Payments

SEC. 201. BUDGETING PROCESS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF OPERATING BUDGET AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURES BUDGET.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this Act there are established on an annual basis consistent with this title—

(A) an operating budget, including amounts for optimal physician, nurse, and other health care professional staffing;

(B) a capital expenditures budget;

(C) reimbursement levels for providers consistent with subtitle 2; and

(D) a health professional education budget, including amounts for the continued funding of resident physician training programs.

(2) REGIONAL EXPENDITURES.—After Congress appropriates amounts for the annual budget for the Medicare For All Program, the Director shall provide the regional offices with an annual budget to cover the costs of each region’s expenditures. Such allotment shall cover global budgets, reimbursement to clinicians, health professional education, and capital expenditures. Regional offices may receive additional funds from the national program at the discretion of the Directors.

(b) OPERATING BUDGET.—The operating budget shall be used for—

(1) payment for services rendered by physicians and other clinicians;

(2) global budgets for institutional providers;

(3) capital payments for capitated groups; and

(4) administration of the Program.

(c) CAPITAL EXPENDITURES BUDGET.—The capital expenditures budget shall be used for funds needed for—

(1) the construction or renovation of health facilities; and

(2) for major equipment purchases.

(d) FAVORING NON-INSTITUTIONAL CARE.—The Director is prohibited from reimbursing providers based on inpatient care services under this Act.

SEC. 202. PAYMENT OF PROVIDERS AND HEALTH CARE CLINICIANS.

(a) ESTABLISHING GLOBAL BUDGETS; MONTHLY LUMP SUM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Medicare For All Program, through its regional offices, shall pay each institutional provider of care, including hospitals, nursing facilities, community or migrant health centers, home care agencies, or other institutional providers or pre-paid group practices, a monthly lump sum to cover all operating expenses under a global budget.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF GLOBAL BUDGETS.—The global budget of a provider shall be set after agreement through representation of providers, State directors, and regional directors, but are subject to the approval of the Director. The budget shall be negotiated annually, based on past expenditures, projected changes in levels of services, wages and input, costs, a provider’s maximum capacity to provide care, and proposed new and innovative programs.

(b) THREE PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR PHYSICIANS AND CERTAIN OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Program shall pay physicians, dentists, doctors of osteopathy, pharmacists, psychologists, chiropractors, nurse practitioners of optimal care, nurse midwives, physicians’ assistants, and other advanced practice clinicians as licensed and approved by the States by the following payment methods:

(A) Fee for service payment under paragraph (2).

(B) Salaried positions in institutions receiving global budgets under paragraph (3).

(C) Salaried positions within group practices or non-profit health maintenance organizations receiving capitation payments under paragraph (4).

(2) FEE FOR SERVICE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Program shall negotiate a fee schedule that is fair and optimal with representatives of physicians and other clinicians, after close consultation with the National Board of Universal Quality and Access and regional and State directors. Initially, the current prevailing fees or reimbursement would be the basis for the fee negotiation for all professional services under this Act.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing such schedule, the Director shall take into consideration the following:

(i) The need for a uniform national standard.

(ii) The goal of ensuring that physicians, clinicians, pharmacists, and other medical professionals be compensated at a rate which reflects their expertise and the value of their services, regardless of geographic region and past fee schedules.

(C) STATE PHYSICIAN PRACTICE REVIEW BOARDS.—The State director for each State, in consultation with representatives of the physician community of that State, shall establish and maintain a physician practice review board to assure quality, cost effectiveness, and fair reimbursements for physician delivered services.

(D) FINANCIAL LINKS.—The Director shall be responsible for promulgating final guidelines to all providers.

(E) BILLING.—Under this Act physicians shall submit bills to the regional director on a simple form, or via computer. Interest charges shall be paid to providers who are not reimbursed within 30 days of submission.

(F) NO BILLING.—Licensed health care clinicians who accept any payment from the Medicare For All Program may not bill any patient for any covered service.

(G) UNIFORM COMPUTER ELECTRONIC BILLING SYSTEM.—The Director shall create a uniform computerized electronic billing system, including those areas of the United States where electronic billing is not yet established.

(3) SALARIES WITHIN INSTITUTIONS RECEIVING GLOBAL BUDGETS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an institution, such as a hospital, health center, group practice, community or migrant health center, home care agency, or residential care facility, the salary of each participating physician and other licensed, independent practitioners who provide services to patients by reason of section 104(a) (relating to prohibition against duplicating coverage), shall be reimbursed through a salary included as part of such a budget.

(B) SALARY RANGES.—Salary ranges for health care providers shall be determined in the same way as fee schedules under paragraph (2).

(4) SALARIES WITHIN CAPITATED GROUPS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Health maintenance organizations, group practices, and other institutions may elect to be paid capitation payments to cover all outpatient, physician, and medical home care provided to individuals enrolled to receive benefits through the organization or entity.

(B) SCOPE.—Such capitation may include the costs of services provided by physicians and other licensed, independent practitioners provided to inpatients. Other costs of inpatient and institutional care shall be excluded from capitation payments under paragraph (2).

(c) PROHIBITION OF SELECTIVE ENROLLMENT.—Patients shall be permitted to enroll or disenroll from such organizations or entities without discrimination and with appropriate notice.

(d) HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS.—

Under this Act—

(1) health maintenance organizations shall be required to reimburse physicians based on a simple form, and

(ii) financial incentives between such organizations and physicians based on utilization are prohibited.

SEC. 203. PAYMENT FOR LONG-TERM CARE.

(a) ALLOTMENT FOR REGIONS.—The Program shall provide for each region a single budgetary allotment to cover a full array of long-term care services under this Act.

(b) REGIONAL BUDGETS.—Each region shall provide a global budget to local long-term care providers for the full range of needed services, including home care, nursing home, and community based care.

(c) BASIS FOR BUDGETS.—Budgets for long-term care services under this section shall be based on past expenditures, financial and clinical performance, utilization, and projected changes in service, wages, and other related factors.

(d) FAVORING NON-INSTITUTIONAL CARE.—All efforts shall be made under this Act to provide long-term care in a home- or community-based setting, as opposed to institutional care.

SEC. 204. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Program shall provide coverage for all medically necessary mental health care on the same basis as the coverage for other conditions. Licensed mental health clinicians shall be paid in the same manner as specified for other health professionals, as provided for in section 202(3).

(b) FAVORING COMMUNITY-BASED CARE.—The Medicare For All Program shall cover the costs of all long-term care, including inpatient, home, and community based care.

(c) MEDICATIONS.—The Medicare For All Program shall cover the costs of all medications, including those areas of the United States where electronic billing is not yet established.

(d) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an institution, such as a hospital, health center, group practice, community and migrant health centers, home care services, and other institutional providers or pre-paid group practices, the monthly lump sum to cover all operating expenses under a global budget shall be paid monthly by reason of section 104(a) (relating to prohibition against duplicating coverage).
SEC. 205. PAYMENT FOR PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, AND MEDICALLY NECESSARY ASSISTIVE EQUIPMENT.

(a) NEGOTIATED PRICES.—The prices to be paid each year under this Act for covered pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, and medicinally necessary assistive equipment shall be negotiated annually by the Program.

(b) PRESCRIPTION DRUG FORMULARY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Program shall establish a prescription drug formulary system, which shall encourage best-practices in prescribing and discourage the use of ineffective, or excessively costly medications when better alternatives are available.

(2) PROMOTION OF USE OF GENERICS.—The formulary shall promote the use of generic medications but allow the use of brand-name and off-formulary medications.

(3) FORMULARY UPDATES AND PETITION RIGHTS.—The formulary shall be updated frequently and clinicians and patients may petition their region or the Director to add new pharmaceuticals or to remove ineffective or dangerous medications from the formulary.

SEC. 206. CONSULTATION IN ESTABLISHING REIMBURSEMENT LEVELS.

Reimbursement levels under this subtitle shall be set after close consultation with regional and State Directors and after the annual meeting of National Board of Universal Quality and Access.

Subtitle B—Funding

SEC. 211. OVERVIEW: FUNDING THE MEDICARE FOR ALL PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Medicare For All Program is to be funded as provided in subsection (c).

(b) MEDICARE FOR ALL TRUST FUND.—There shall be established a Medicare For All Trust Fund in which funds provided under this Act are made.

(c) FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are appropriated to the Medicare For All Trust Fund amounts sufficient to carry out this Act from the following sources:

(A) Existing sources of Federal Government revenues for health care.

(B) Increasing personal income taxes on the top 5 percent income earners.

(C) Instituting a modest and progressive excise tax on payroll and self-employment income.

(D) Instituting a modest tax on uninsured income.

(E) Instituting a small tax on stock and bond transactions.

(2) SYSTEM SAVINGS AS A SOURCE OF FINANCING.—Funding otherwise required for the Program is reduced as a result of—

(A) Vastly reducing paperwork;

(B) Requiring a rational bulk procurement of medications under section 20(a); and

(C) Improved access to preventive health care.

(3) ADDITIONAL ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS TO MEDICARE FOR ALL PROGRAM.—Additional sums are authorized to be appropriated annually as needed to maintain maximum quality, efficiency, and access under the Program.

SEC. 212. APPROPRIATIONS FOR EXISTING PROGRAMS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, transfers are made to and appropriated to carry out this Act, amounts from the Treasury equivalent to the amounts the Secretary estimates would have been appropriated to Federal public health care programs, including funds that would have been appropriated under the

Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act, under the Medicaid program under title XIX of such Act, and under the Children’s Health Insurance Program under title XXVII of such Act.

TITLE III—ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 301. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION; APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise specifically provided, this Act shall be administered by the Secretary through a Director appointed by the Secretary.

(b) LONG-TERM CARE.—The Director shall appoint a director for long-term care who shall be responsible for administration of this Act and ensuring the availability and accessibility of high quality long-term care services.

(c) MENTAL HEALTH.—The Director shall appoint a director for mental health who shall be responsible for administration of this Act and ensuring the availability and accessibility of high quality mental health services.

SEC. 302. OFFICE OF QUALITY CONTROL.

The Director shall appoint a director for an Office of Quality Control. Such director shall, after consultation with State and regional directors, provide annual recommendations to Congress, the President, the Secretary, and other Program officials on how to ensure the adequacy of Medicare for All health care service delivery. The director of the Office of Quality Control shall conduct an annual review on the adequacy of medically necessary services and shall make recommendations of any proposed changes to the Congress, the President, the Secretary, and other Medicare For All Program officials.

SEC. 303. REGIONAL AND STATE ADMINISTRATION; EMPLOYMENT OF DISPLACED CLINICAL PROFESSIONALS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDICARE FOR ALL PROGRAM REGIONAL OFFICES.—The Secretary shall establish and maintain Medicare For All regional offices for the purpose of distributing funds to providers of care. Whenever possible, the Secretary shall incorporate pre-existing Medicare infrastructure for this purpose.

(b) APPOINTMENT OF REGIONAL AND STATE DIRECTORS.—In each such regional office there shall be—

(1) one regional director appointed by the Director; and

(2) for each State in the region, a deputy director (in this Act referred to as a “State Director”) appointed by the governor of that State.

(c) REGIONAL OFFICE DUTIES.—Regional offices of the Program shall be responsible for—

(1) coordinating funding to health care providers and physicians; and

(2) coordinating billing and reimbursements with physicians and health care providers through a State-based reimbursement system.

(d) STATE DIRECTOR’S DUTIES.—Each State Director shall be responsible for the following duties:

(1) Providing an annual State health care needs assessment report to the National Board of Universal Quality and Access, and the regional board, after a thorough examination of health needs, in consultation with public health officials, clinicians, patients, and patient advocates.

(2) Health planning, including oversight of the placement of new hospitals, clinics, and other health facilities.

(3) Health planning, including oversight of the purchase and placement of new health equipment to ensure timely access to care and adequate access to needed care.

(4) Submitting global budgets to the regional director.

(5) Recommending changes in provider reimbursement or payment for delivery of health services in the State.

(6) Establishing a quality assurance mechanism in the State in order to minimize both under utilization and over utilization and to assure that all providers meet high quality standards.

(7) Reviewing program disbursements on a quarterly basis and recommending needed adjustments in fee schedules needed to achieve budgetary targets and assure adequate access to care.

(f) FIRST PRIORITY IN RETRAINING AND JOB PLACEMENT: 2 YEARS OF SALARAY PARTIC BENEFICIARIES.—The Secretary shall establish a Medicare For All Employment Transition Fund, from which expenditures shall be made to recipients of the benefits allocated in subsection (e).

(g) ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS TO MEDICARE FOR ALL EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION FUND.—Sums are authorized to be appropriated annually as needed to fund the Medicare For All Employment Transition Benefits.

(h) RETENTION OF RIGHT TO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS.—Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as a waiver of Medicare For All Employment Transition benefit recipients’ right to receive Federal and State unemployment benefits.

SEC. 304. CONFIDENTIAL, ELECTRONIC PATIENT RECORD SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall create a standardized, confidential electronic patient record system in accordance with laws and regulations to maintain accurate patient records and to simplify the billing process, thereby reducing medical errors and bureaucracy.

(b) PATIENT OPTION.—Notwithstanding that all billing shall be preformed electronically, patients shall have the right to keep any portion of their medical record separate from their electronic medical record.

SEC. 305. NATIONAL BOARD OF UNIVERSAL QUALITY AND ACCESS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established a National Board of Universal Quality and Access (in this section referred to as the “Board”) consisting of 15 members appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The appointed members of the Board shall include at least one of each of the following:

(A) Health care professionals.

(B) Representatives of institutional providers of health care.

(C) Representatives of health care advocacy groups.

(D) Representatives of labor unions.

(E) Citizen patient advocates.

(3) TERMS.—Each member shall be appointed for a term of 6 years, except that the President shall stagger the terms of members initially appointed so that the term of no more than 3 members expires in any year.

(4) PROHIBITION ON CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—No member of the Board shall have a financial conflict of interest with the duties before the Board.
(b) Duties.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall meet at least twice per year and shall advise the Secretary and the Director on a regular basis to ensure that the veterans healthcare system is efficient, effective, and affordable.

(2) SPECIFIC ISSUES.—The Board shall specifically address the following issues:

(A) Access to care.

(B) Quality improvement.

(C) Efficiency of administration.

(D) Adequacy of budget and funding.

(E) Appropriateness of reimbursement levels of physicians and other providers.

(F) Capital expenditure needs.

(G) Long-term care.

(H) Mental health and substance abuse services.

(I) Staffing levels and working conditions in healthcare delivery facilities.

(3) ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIVERSAL, BEST QUALITY STANDARD OF CARE.—The Board shall specifically establish a universal, best quality standard of care with respect to:

(A) appropriate staffing levels;

(B) appropriate medical technology;

(C) design and scope of work in the health workplace;

(D) best practices; and

(E) salary level and working conditions of physicians, clinicians, nurses, other medical professionals, and appropriate support staff.

(4) TWICE-A-YEAR REPORT.—The Board shall report its recommendations twice each year to the Secretary, the Director, Congress, and the President.

(c) COMPENSATION, ETC.—The following provisions of the Social Security Act shall apply to the Board in the same manner as they apply to the Medicare Payment Assessment Commission (except that any reference to the Secretary or the Commissioner General shall be treated as references to the Board and the Secretary, respectively):

(1) Subsection (c)(4) (relating to compensation of Board members).

(2) Subsection (c)(5) (relating to chairman and vice chairman).

(3) Subsection (c)(6) (relating to meetings).

(4) Subsection (d) (relating to director and staff; experts and consultants).

(5) Subsection (e) (relating to powers).

TITLE IV—ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. TREATMENT OF VA AND HIS HEALTH PROGRAMS.

(a) VA HEALTH PROGRAMS.—This Act provides for health programs of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs to initially remain independent for the 5-year period that begins on the date of the establishment of the Medicare For All Program. After such 5-year period, the Board shall reevaluate whether such programs shall remain independent or be integrated into the Medicare For All Program.

(b) INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE PROGRAMS.—This Act provides for health programs of the Indian Health Service to initially remain independent for the 5-year period that begins on the date of the establishment of the Medicare For All Program, after which such programs shall be integrated into the Medicare For All Program.

SEC. 402. PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENTION.

It is the intent of this Act that the Program shall continue to address the importance of public health through the prevention of disease.

SEC. 403. REDUCTION IN HEALTH DISPARITIES.

It is the intent of this Act to reduce health disparities by race, ethnicity, income and geography and to provide high quality, cost-effective, culturally appropriate care to all individuals regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or language.

TITLE V—EFFECTIVE DATE

SEC. 501. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as otherwise specifically provided, this Act shall take effect on the first day of the first year that begins more than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply to items and services furnished on or after such date.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I rise this evening to announce that the Senate will offer no further amendments to the pending legislation until the Republican majority leader informs us what the final legislation will be.

Clearly, the Senate bill—repeal and replace—has failed. Senator Paul’s bill—repeal without replace—has also failed. The Republicans are not going to take a final vote on the underlying House bill, which is still the pending legislation.

Now the Republican leadership team has been telling the press about a yet-to-be-disclosed final bill. If the reports are true, the Republicans will offer a skinny repeal plan.

We just heard from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office that under such a plan as reported in the press, 16 million Americans would lose their health insurance and millions more would pay a 20-percent-to-20-percent—increase in their premiums—at least 20 percent.

I thank Senator MURRAY and Senator WYDEN for working with CBO so that we could figure out what exactly is going on, if this skinny bill is the bill that is brought to the floor.

My Republican friends come to the floor every day to assail the problem of high premiums. If the reporting is accurate and skinny repeal is their plan, it makes premiums far higher than they are today. We don’t know if skinny repeal is going to be their final bill, but if it is, the CBO says that it would cause costs to go up and millions to lose insurance.

In the meantime, Democrats are not going to continue to try and amend the House plan that is already dead. Certainly, we are not going to do that while there is some secret legislation—skinny repeal—hiding in the leaders’ office.

The Republican leader has said that this is a robust amendment process. No, it isn’t—far from it. We don’t even know what bill to direct our amendments to. Certainly, a process that bypassed the committees and public hearings was never an open and transparent process.

There was never a robust amendment process to this bill, but now it is going to be worse. Since the beginning of this debate, we have just been taking votes on amendments to a piece of dead legislation.

What kind of process is this? Anyone who listened, as we all did, so intently to Senator MCCAIN’s wonderful speech yesterday and applauded the sentiment that he mentioned—getting back to regular order and proper procedure—and who heard that speech would blush at this sham of an amendment process thus far. We don’t even have a final bill to amend. The idea that this is a robust amendment process, I would say to my dear friend the leader, defies credibility. No one believes it. I bet not a single person on either side of the aisle believes it. So Democrats are not going to participate in this one-sided and broken process.

Once the majority leader shows his hand, reveals what his bill will actually be, Democrats will use the opportunity to try to force a vote on what we have to see it first, and we ought to see it soon in broad daylight, not at the eleventh hour.

Until we see the real bill, Democrats will offer no further amendments.

Thank you, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, let me join the Democratic leader in expressing my dismay in what has been going on on the Senate floor with respect to healthcare.

For over 7 years, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have been talking about how they intended to repeal the Affordable Care Act in order to replace it with something better and improve our healthcare system. President Trump has said time and again that he would provide better healthcare at a lower cost. He said that everyone would be covered. Yet we have seen no solutions from the other side that would accomplish those goals. We have been trying to work with Republicans, not just this year but for the last several years to improve our healthcare system, we worked with them to craft the Affordable Care Act in the first place, holding public hearings and meetings with both Democrats and Republicans around the table. The Affordable Care Act included well over 150 Republican amendments. Yet they refused to work with us on our final passage of the law and refused to work with us on the current law and healthcare ever since.

However, today we have seen a couple of glimpses of bipartisanship. First, the Senate voted by both Democrats and Republicans, to reject the TrumpCare bill that would have provided tax breaks to special interests while decimating Medicaid. I am glad the Senate has spoken on that issue and said that we do not support this effort. This afternoon, Democrats and Republicans voted to reject a bill that would have repealed the Affordable Care Act with no replacement. A majority of Senators voted to say that effort was unacceptable.

Now that we have taken those votes, Senators have had their say on what they think is the best path forward, and to me, these votes show that most Senators want to work in a bipartisan fashion to improve our healthcare system. I have heard many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle say just that, as Senator MCCAIN said so eloquently yesterday.

I think, if my colleagues are willing to sit down and negotiate in good faith
on legislation to improve our healthcare system and bring down costs, we could come up with a bill that would get the support of the majority of this body. My colleague Senator SHAHEEN, for example, introduced legislation to help stabilize the individual market that any of us would agree is an important step forward in improving the Affordable Care Act. However, we are now hurrying toward a vote with absolutely no plan to improve the healthcare system.

My colleagues are struggling to get enough votes just to pass anything at all.

Right now we are debating the bill, but what does that mean when we have not yet seen the bill we are eventually going to vote on? This is not a meaningful exercise with opportunities to amend and improve legislation. We are simply killing time so that the Republican leadership can unveil a new bill, if they are able to come up with one, that can command enough of their Members to support. Hours or minutes before final passage this could be sprung upon us, and we would then be forced to take a vote. That is not the way the legislative process should work.

What kind of message does this send to our constituents? This is an example of legislating at its worst.

This is why many Americans don’t trust Washington to have their backs. We don’t know what changes for the better we intend to pass at the end of this debate, but we do know that they intend to pass something that is harmful. The CBO score, which the Democratic leader suggested, based upon the reports of what is pending, suggests significant losses in coverage across the country and significant increases in the cost of healthcare insurance for Americans. Based on what we have seen so far, each proposal would send the health insurance market into a death spiral, impacting all of our constituents—not just the Medicaid recipients, not just those who are in the exchanges—and even private employers who provide insurance coverage for their workers would see increases.

As I mentioned earlier, the bill we voted on this afternoon would repeal the Affordable Care Act with no replacement. In that case, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office said 22 million Americans to lose health insurance over the next decade, including 17 million next year alone, and health insurance markets would collapse.

As I indicated, fortunately, that failed, with both Democrats and Republicans voting against it, but it looks like Senate Republican leadership is still trying to cobble together yet another version, taking some of the worst elements of the repeal act. What is worse, there will be no opportunity to review, read, or even analyze the bill and provide feedback, no opportunities for stakeholders, patients, and States to weigh in.

It is telling that the only path forward they have for their repeal effort is to pass a bill no one has literally read. The only chance they have to get support for their effort is to hide, essentially, the impact of the bill because on the merits it appears devastating to our constituents.

Nevertheless, as much as they try to hide this bill, the American people will find out. They will find out when they get the bill for their health insurance. They will find out when they go to their doctor and discover the treatment they had last year that was covered under the Affordable Care Act is no longer covered. They will find out when the only insurance company in their State decides to leave. They will find out when their employer says: We are no longer providing healthcare to our employees. They will find out when they start a family and discover that maternity care is no longer covered and, if the child needs medical care early in life, the insurance company can say: No, thank you; we don’t have to cover the child. There is a pre-existing condition.

Just last night I got a call from a woman in Charlestown, RI. Amy's mother, Mari, is a nursing home resident, and she just learned that she will lose her coverage. Her insurer is ending its participation in our State’s health insurance marketplace, HealthSource RI. As Amy said, she and her husband are hard-working, middle-income taxpayers, but they never have been able to afford coverage without the help of the Affordable Care Act. They would not have been able to do that. Amy recently got sick and had to be hospitalized. She has coverage because of ObamaCare. She was able to get the treatment she needed. Without coverage, she would have been left to pay a bill of $78,000. Amy told me that she and her husband would have had to sell their house to afford that, and, probably even with that, they would have been left impoverished.

Is that really what my colleagues want for their constituents?

My constituents know what is at stake. I have heard from thousands and thousands of them throughout the year, urging me to keep fighting for those who have no other way to pay for their care. No, thank you; we don’t have that either.

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Madam President, I rise this evening to speak in opposition to the Republican plan to dismantle our healthcare system. Their effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act and gut Medicaid would put the health, as well as the financial security of millions of Americans, at risk.

Let me tell you how this would affect Minnesotans such as Annie and her 5-year-old son Carter. Carter has autism spectrum disorder and relies on Medicaid to help cover necessary therapy. When Carter was born, he could not talk, make eye contact, or interact with anyone. But now, because of the treatment he receives under Medicaid, Carter speaks full sentences and is entering kindergarten. Annie explains that her son is able to thrive in school, in part, because of the Medicaid.

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There is also Mari and Chrysann, both from Moorhead, MN. Moorhead is in northwestern Minnesota, right across the river from Fargo. Mari took care of her aging mother in her home as long as she could, but when Chrysann’s health began to decline, Mari helped her mom move to a nursing home where she could access the higher level of care she needed.

Mari and her husband work full time and still have children at home. I visited one of those homes, and Mari told me how that would be possible without Medicaid. If Republicans succeed in imposing drastic cuts to Medicaid, which is what they want to do, and States are forced to cut back services, Annie and her family would not be able to afford the therapy that Carter needs to thrive.

Think about that. Think about what that does to one life. Think about the other millions that would be affected in such a negative, tragic way.

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plan is not about taking care of people but simply about “survival of the fittest.”

Is that really the healthcare system we support in the United States of America—the survival of the fittest?

How? Chuck is the CEO of Perham Health. It is a rural hospital that is doing really innovative work in Northwest Minnesota. It is kind of central, north. It is in rural Minnesota, not unlike the rural areas in the Preceding Office’s State.

Chuck told me: “Cutting Medicaid as drastically as they are proposing will force us to cut staff in areas that are actually saving the system money today.”

These cuts would affect nurses who run the hospital’s medical homes, community paramedics, and other staff who are helping to keep people out of the Emergency Department, reduce re-admissions, and keep people healthy overall. This is part of the innovation they are doing. This is part of the innovation that Minnesota leads the Nation in.

Perham Health is one of the largest employers in town so taking away jobs does not just impact the patients and the health of the community and rural economy. Cutting jobs and getting rid of successful reforms just does not make sense, and this would be repeated over and over again in rural America.

Again, the question is, Why are Republicans pursuing such a reckless and irresponsible strategy?

All of the bills they have proposed thus far will increase patient costs, including premiums and out-of-pocket costs, will increase the number of uninsured Americans, and will rip apart our healthcare safety net. These are not the changes Americans want. In fact, this is the opposite of what Americans want and are asking for.

Now, over the last day, we have heard a lot more about another path Republicans may pursue—a scaled-back plan that eliminates a handful of the ACA provisions, including the employer mandate and individual mandate. While these two changes may be politically expedient, they would, according to the Congressional Budget Office, drive up premiums and cause millions of Americans to become uninsured.

What is more, as the New York Times points out, this plan does nothing to address the criticisms Leader McCONNELL, President Trump, and their allies continue to lodge against the Affordable Care Act. For example, this approach does nothing to improve competition and choice in the individual market and, in fact, injects far more uncertainty into individual health insurance markets, which are already rattled by the administration’s deliberate efforts to sabotage them.

Should this plan pass the Senate, it will surely get much worse when the differences between the plan and the House bill are reconciled in the conference committee. According to news reports, a number of my Republican colleagues are arguing that passing this scaled-back version of repeal is really just a means to get to conference, where Members can further negotiate the House and Senate repeal and replace bills. In fact, some are even suggesting that provisions in the House-passed bill would be a guillotine for negotiations.

I think all of us remember how awful, far-reaching, and—according to President Trump—mean the House-passed bill was. We see the worst provisions of the Better Care Reconciliation Act resurface in the conference committee, which is the Senate repeal and replace bill that was defeated on a bipartisan basis.

Overall, pursuing this path is dangerous, given the tremendous number of unknowns. Not only would this half-baked—that is being generous—quarter-baked, scaled-back version of the ACA repeal destabilize health insurance, but it would serve as a vehicle for Republicans to take up the most controversial measures included in the defeated BCRA and the House-passed bill.

Why on Earth would we support that?

Fmr. Governor Paul Wellstone also dehauling to believe that a small group of House and Senate leaders can craft a workable solution in a matter of days or weeks. They have had 7 years to come up with an alternative. They do not have one so far. How do they do this, all of a sudden, come up with a viable plan that affects one-sixth of our economy?

Look, this whole process has been and continues to be irresponsible. In fact, this is one of the most irresponsible policymaking processes I have seen in my time in the U.S. Senate. What we should do is just what Senator McCaIN called for in his speech yesterday, which is to pursue regular order, work together—Republicans and Demo-

Let’s have bipartisan hearings on the individual market, on drug prices, and more. Let’s call in nonpartisan expert witnesses. Let’s have meaningful committee and floor debates. Let’s fix what we are doing in the Affordable Care Act. Annie, Carter, Mari, Chrysann, Chuck, and many other others Americans need us to do just that.

To my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, please, stand up to the bullying, stand up to the lies, and work with us to improve people’s lives, not make them worse. Paul Wellstone said that politics is not about winning, that it is not about power, that it is not about money. Politics is about working to improve people’s lives, and that is what we should be doing. You owe it to your constituents. You owe it to yourselves.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, something else happened this afternoon in Washington that I wish to relate today on the floor, which is that the American Enterprise Institute hosted the launch of Senator SCHATZ’s and my American Opportunity Carbon Fee Act. I am delighted the American Enterprise Institute did that. Their conservative credentials are rock solid, and they do not do this sort of thing. They were extraordinarily helpful and open-minded in allowing us to make the announcement and in hosting a discussion on the bill that followed.

Virtually every person on the Republican side who has thought the climate change problem through to a solution has come to the same place—a revenue-neutral, border-adjustable price on carbon. That means that all of the revenues are returned to the American people.

Former Treasury Secretaries Baker, Shultz, and Paulson—all Republicans—former EPA Administrators Ruckelshaus, Thomas, Reilly, and Whitman—all Republicans—and leading economists Arthur Laffer, Gregory Mankiw, and Douglas Holtz-Eakin—all Republicans—along with many others, support a revenue-neutral, border-adjustable carbon fee. Well, that is what we want.

You all know the phrase “offering an olive branch.” Former Republican Congressmen Bob Inglis described our proposal as an olive limb, not a branch, when pairing a carbon tax with corporate tax reduction. He said it provides what he called “an opportunity for conservatives to show how free enterprise can solve climate change.”

When I first came to the Senate in 2007, this place was humming with bipartisan action on climate change for years—but, in 2010, a dead stop. The Republican Party disappeared from the field after the fossil fuel industry secured from five Justices on the Supreme Court the infamous Citizens United decision. The fossil fuel industry, as if it saw the decision coming, immediately launched a veritable Soviet May Day parade of political artillery and rocketry. No special interest had that kind of political muscle before Citizens United. The combination of this industry’s political weaponry, plus the proliferation of dark money, plus the shady science simulacrum of climate denial has been formidable.

Despite this, there is room for optimism. There are Republicans who are willing to work with us. They just need some prospect of safe passage through the political kill zone that the fossil fuel industry has created.

Over 1,000 American companies have voiced their support for the Paris climate agreement, including corporate powerhouses like Walmart, Goldman Sachs, PepsiCo, and Google. If American companies were to mobilize in
Congress just like they did for the Paris Agreement, that would be a game-changer.

But notwithstanding all of that corporate support, the big business trade associations and lobbying groups have lined up against action on climate change. The so-called U.S. Chamber of Commerce—probably more accurately described as the U.S. chamber of carbon—is one of climate action’s most implacable enemies, despite the good climate policies of so many of its member companies, representing its members. It is incredible.

The American Petroleum Institute represents Shell, BP, Total, and Exxon—companies that claim to support the Paris Agreement and the Climate Leadership Council’s carbon fee proposal—but API opposes anything getting done.

We all know here that corporate America commands extraordinary attention in our political system. If America took a lead on climate change, political engagement on climate change with their actual position on climate change, which should not be asking too much of them, we could get going.

So far, in a spirit of hopefulness, Senator SCHATZ and I reintroduced at the American Enterprise Institute our American Opportunity Carbon Fee Act, a framework that I hope both Republicans and Democrats can embrace. The bill would establish an economy-wide carbon fee on carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions. The fee would be assessed where it is easiest to administer, minimizing the compliance burden. Other greenhouse gases would be tied to their carbon dioxide equivalent with a bumber for fluorocarbons to account for their high greenhouse gas potency. Sequestering, utilizing, or encapsulating carbon dioxide emissions would earn you a credit. The market would work in this space.

Our bill sets the 2018 fee per ton of carbon emitted at $49—the central range of the social cost of carbon last estimated by the Office of Management and Budget. That fee would increase each year at a real 2 percent until emissions fall 80 percent below 2005 levels, and then it would follow inflation.

Border adjustments for energy-intensive goods traded with countries that have weaker or no carbon pricing will make sure that we protect our industries. So this bill is designed to put the border adjustments in harmony with World Trade Organization rules.

This carbon fee would produce meaningful reductions in carbon emissions. The nonpartisan Resources for the Future projects a 15 percent drop by 2025, compared to the benchmark year of 2005, exceeding the U.S.-Paris Agreement commitment significantly.

In addition to the environmental value, of course, a carbon fee also generates revenue. In this case for the future project, it goes toward a retirement drop by 2025.

First, the bill lowers the top corporate income tax rate from 35 percent to 29 percent—a longstanding goal of Republicans. This would cut American corporate taxes by almost $600 billion over the first decade.

Second, it provides workers with a $550 refundable credit for a couple—against payroll taxes. The tax credits, which would grow with inflation, would return almost $900 billion to the pocketbooks of American households over the first 10 years.

Third, it would tie a matching benefit to Social Security beneficiaries, veterans program beneficiaries, and certain other retirees. These benefits would total nearly $500 billion over 10 years.

Finally, the bill would establish a block grant program, delivering the remaining funds to our States—over $100 billion to help workers in coal country, for instance, or provide coastal protection for seaside States facing terrible threats of sea level rise, at the discretion of the State, to meet local needs and concerns.

I understand the suffering in coal country. Coal country will continue to decline as natural gas drives coal out of the energy market. There is now no mechanism to remedy that inextirpability.

Remember Huey Long’s old slogan, “Every Man a King”? With a carbon fee, we could make every miner a king. At any time, full health benefits for life, a cash bonus based on years worked, a voucher for a new vehicle, a college plan for their kids. These things become doable with carbon fee revenues.

It is not the miners’ fault that the coal industry has collapsed. They worked hard. They did dangerous work. It is a rigorous occupation to be a coal miner, and they are entitled to respect. Give them their dignity. Make them kings. It is a small fraction of the revenue from a carbon fee, we could assure every single coal miner a lifetime of comfort, security, and financial stability.

Senator SCHATZ and I extend an open hand, an olive branch. Give Senator SCHATZ and me a Republican to negotiate with. That shouldn’t be too much to ask. Then let’s talk about the economics. Let’s talk about where the revenue should go. And because I know it is a part of the Baker-Schulte-Paulson proposal, let’s talk about where we can get fact-based, scientifically rigorous analyses of which regulations might become unnecessary or duplicative of a carbon fee’s emission reductions.

Let’s start the bipartisan conversation we need going until 2017.

Let me close with an appeal to our patriotic sense. America holds herself out as an exemplary nation, a “City on a Hill.” The tactics of climate denial and political menace the fossil fuel industry has deployed around here have degraded our city.

There is a remorseless functioning of the laws of physics, of chemistry, and of biology. Deny them all you want, but time will tell. And even now, everyone, from our Secretary of Defense to every single Senator’s home State, State university, understands that climate change is real and urgent, is changing the science of climate change in those universities, and is warning of the dire consequences.

When the President left the Environment and Public Works Committee the other day, I was talking strong. The Leopold Center at Iowa State University and the powerful language in which they describe the present effects on agriculture of climate change and the danger of disruption to the fundamental systems of the planet. That is the home State universities telling us what the facts are. So one day there will be a reckoning, and the longer our American democracy lies incapacitated at the hands of the fossil fuel industry, the worse the outcome will be, and the worse the outcome, the greater the harm to the country we love that holds its example up to the world.

We are all extremely fond of John McCain. John McCain returned to the Senate yesterday and called our country “the strong, inspiring, inspirational beacon of liberty and defender of dignity of all human beings.” Some beacon, if we continue to get this wrong because of what one industry did to our politics, using political menace, dark money, and fake science.

America deserves better than what we are doing in this Chamber on this issue.

I thank the President.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628 and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the Record. The motion is supported by Senators King, Heinrich, Baldwin, Bennet, Brown, Cantwell, Carper, Coons, Donnelly, Feinstein, Franken, Harris, Inhofe, Murkowski, McCain, McCaskill, Shaheen, Stabenow, Udall, Van Hollen, and Warren.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Tester moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that would force the closure of rural hospitals or otherwise reduce access to affordable health care in rural areas.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of my motion to commit be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Ms. Klobuchar moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance of the
Senate with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) would eliminate any provision that would result in a reduction in funding for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program of the Health Resources and Services Administration.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Ms. Duckworth moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) strike provisions that will—

(A) reduce or eliminate benefits or coverage for individuals who are currently eligible for Medicaid; and

(B) are not enrolled in or eligible for Medicaid.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Ms. Duckworth moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

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Ms. Duckworth moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) strike provisions that will—

(A) reduce or eliminate benefits or coverage for individuals who are currently eligible for Medicaid; and

(B) are not enrolled in or eligible for Medicaid.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Ms. Duckworth moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) strike provisions that will—

(A) reduce or eliminate benefits or coverage for individuals who are currently eligible for Medicaid; and

(B) are not enrolled in or eligible for Medicaid.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Ms. Duckworth moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) strike provisions that will—

(A) reduce or eliminate benefits or coverage for individuals who are currently eligible for Medicaid; and

(B) are not enrolled in or eligible for Medicaid.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Ms. Duckworth moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) strike provisions that will—

(A) reduce or eliminate benefits or coverage for individuals who are currently eligible for Medicaid; and

(B) are not enrolled in or eligible for Medicaid.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Ms. Duckworth moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) strike provisions that will—

(A) reduce or eliminate benefits or coverage for individuals who are currently eligible for Medicaid; and

(B) are not enrolled in or eligible for Medicaid.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Ms. Duckworth moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) strike provisions that will—

(A) reduce or eliminate benefits or coverage for individuals who are currently eligible for Medicaid; and

(B) are not enrolled in or eligible for Medicaid.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Ms. Duckworth moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) strike provisions that will—

(A) reduce or eliminate benefits or coverage for individuals who are currently eligible for Medicaid; and

(B) are not enrolled in or eligible for Medicaid.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Ms. Duckworth moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) strike provisions that will—

(A) reduce or eliminate benefits or coverage for individuals who are currently eligible for Medicaid; and

(B) are not enrolled in or eligible for Medicaid.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Ms. Duckworth moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) strike provisions that will—

(A) reduce or eliminate benefits or coverage for individuals who are currently eligible for Medicaid; and

(B) are not enrolled in or eligible for Medicaid.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Ms. Duckworth moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) strike provisions that will—

(A) reduce or eliminate benefits or coverage for individuals who are currently eligible for Medicaid; and

(B) are not enrolled in or eligible for Medicaid.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Ms. Duckworth moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) strike provisions that will—

(A) reduce or eliminate benefits or coverage for individuals who are currently eligible for Medicaid; and

(B) are not enrolled in or eligible for Medicaid.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Ms. Duckworth moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) strike provisions that will—

(A) reduce or eliminate benefits or coverage for individuals who are currently eligible for Medicaid; and

(B) are not enrolled in or eligible for Medicaid.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Ms. Duckworth moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) strike provisions that will—

(A) reduce or eliminate benefits or coverage for individuals who are currently eligible for Medicaid; and

(B) are not enrolled in or eligible for Medicaid.
Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628 and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. The motion is supported by Senators Stabenow, Baldwin, Kaine, Coons, King, Carper, and Peters.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Warner moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee;
(2) strikes or limits any provision of the bill to affect the termination of the Medicaid expansion; and
(3) ensures that no State that expands Medicaid coverage can receive the full enhanced Federal medical assistance percentage available as if they expanded in 2014, regardless of when they expand Medicaid.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motions to H.R. 1628 and I ask unanimous consent that they be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Warner moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee;
(2) eliminate provisions that harm older Americans by increasing their premiums, cutting Federal Medicaid funding that supports those in nursing homes, or weakening Medicare.

Mr. UDALL. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motions to H.R. 1628 and I ask unanimous consent that they be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Udall moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee;
(2) ensure that nothing in the bill impacts the ability of school districts to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the Americans with Disabilities Act.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Udall moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee;
(2) ensure that no provision of the bill reduces access to substance abuse and mental health services.

Mr. UDALL. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motions to H.R. 1628 and I ask unanimous consent that they be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Udall moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee;
(2) ensure that no provision of the bill eliminates or reduces funds for public health programs.
MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Udall moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure that no provision of the bill eliminates or reduces access to pediatric dental coverage.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Udall moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure that medically underserved areas with limited providers are not subject to any reductions in Federal Medicaid funding.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Udall moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure that no State may use funds described in section 1332(a)(3) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act for purposes unrelated to the public health.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that the text of the motion be printed in the RECORD. The motion is supported by Senators STABENOW, DUCKWORTH, HASSAN, VAN HOLLEN, MURRAY, BROWN, BLUMENTHAL, CARPER, DURBIN, KAINE, BALDWIN, WYDEN, MARKEY, MURPHY, HARRIS, CARDIN, WARREN, HIRONO, REED, and NELSON.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Casey moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the American Health Care Act of 2017 that would harm individuals with disabilities as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) by reducing their access to affordable health care or limiting coverage or benefits under Medicaid or in the private health insurance market.

Ms. Duckworth. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of this motion to commit be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Ms. Duckworth moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) strike any provision in the bill that results in a decrease in maternal care for new mothers, including pre-natal care, delivery, and post-natal care.

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. The motion is supported by Senators MARK, CARPER, DURBIN, STABENOW, HIRANO, VAN HOLLEN, and BROWN.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) establish a public health insurance option.

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motions to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that they be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure that any reductions in Federal Medicaid funding that supports medications, specialty medicines, and savings accounts utilized to pay medical bills.

I ask unanimous consent that this statement be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. King moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) enable individuals who, through no fault of their own, received lump-sum Social Security disability insurance settlements which resulted in loss of advance premium tax credits for that year and not include as income retirement and savings drawdowns used to pay medical bills.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. King moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) require—

(A) tax rebates to individuals who, through no fault of their own, received lump-sum Social Security disability insurance settlements which were calculated in the year they were received and disqualified the individuals from receiving advanced premium tax credits in that year; and

(B) that income drawn from retirement and savings accounts utilized to pay medical bills not be counted as income for purposes of the premium tax credits.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I intend to file the following motion to H.R. 1628 and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. The motion is supported by Senators BROWN, FRANKEN, VAN HOLLEN, CARPIN, and UDALL.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Whitehouse moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that would lead to an increased likelihood of bankruptcies for American families, including provisions that allow insurers to impose annual or lifetime limits on insurance, or that would eliminate insurance coverage.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Whitehouse moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that reduce funding for special education programs, including provisions that break President Trump’s promise not to cut Medicaid.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Whitehouse moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that harm individuals with Alzheimer’s disease by increasing their premiums or cutting Federal Medicaid funding that supports those in nursing homes.
MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that make it harder for a person with breast cancer to access health care.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that make it harder for a person with cervical cancer to access health care.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that make it harder for a person with brain cancer to access health care.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that make health insurance unaffordable for people living in a nursing home.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that make health insurance unaffordable for people receiving home and community based services.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that make health insurance unaffordable for people over the age of 50.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that make health insurance unaffordable for people with ALS.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that make health insurance unaffordable for veterans.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that make health insurance unaffordable for people seeking mental health care.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that make health insurance unaffordable for people receiving chemotherapy or radiation treatment.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that make health insurance unaffordable for people receiving long term services and supports.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that make health insurance unaffordable for people with a disability.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that make health insurance unaffordable for people receiving long term services and supports.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that make health insurance unaffordable for people with ALS.
not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health insurance unaffordable for people with multiple sclerosis.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health insurance unaffordable for people with multiple sclerosis.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health insurance unaffordable for people with multiple sclerosis.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health insurance unaffordable for people with multiple sclerosis.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health insurance unaffordable for people with multiple sclerosis.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health insurance unaffordable for people with multiple sclerosis.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health insurance unaffordable for people with multiple sclerosis.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health insurance unaffordable for people with multiple sclerosis.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health insurance unaffordable for people with multiple sclerosis.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health insurance unaffordable for people with multiple sclerosis.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health insurance unaffordable for people with multiple sclerosis.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health insurance unaffordable for people with multiple sclerosis.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health insurance unaffordable for people with multiple sclerosis.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health insurance unaffordable for people with multiple sclerosis.
Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health insurance unaffordable for people with diabetes.

MOVION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health insurance unaffordable for people receiving Social Security benefits, including SSI and SSDI.

MOVION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health insurance unaffordable for people with prostate cancer.

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOVION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Heinrich moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health insurance unaffordable for people with heart disease.

MOVION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health insurance unaffordable for people with diabetes.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOVION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Heinrich moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health insurance unaffordable for people receiving Social Security benefits, including SSI and SSDI.

MOVION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health insurance unaffordable for people with prostate cancer.

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOVION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Heinrich moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health insurance unaffordable for people with heart disease.

MOVION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health insurance unaffordable for people with diabetes.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOVION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Heinrich moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health insurance unaffordable for people with heart disease.

MOVION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Ms. Warren moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health insurance unaffordable for people with diabetes.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:
**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. Cardin moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions of the bill that would increase health disparities among certain populations, including disparities on the basis of race and ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, religion, disability status, geographic location, and sexual identity and orientation.

Ms. BACHMANN. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to commit H.R. 1628 with instructions, on behalf of myself and Senator HIRONO, to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions to eliminate provisions that threaten to make health care unaffordable for those with preexisting conditions. I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

The motion is supported by Senators BLUMENTHAL, DURBIN, STABENOW, FEINSTEIN, BROWN, HARRIS, FRANKEN, CARPER, COONS, UDALL, SHAHEEN, VAN HOLLEN, MENENDEZ, REED, MANCHIN, CARDIN, MURPHY, DUCKWORTH, WARREN, WYDEN, WHITEHOUSE, HEINRICH, WARNER, KLOBUCHAR, NELSON, BENNET, MARKY, BOOKER, and KING.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. Baldwin moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health care unaffordable for those with preexisting conditions.

Mrs. McCASKILL. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. The motion is supported by Senator DONNELLY.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mrs. McCaskill moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health care unaffordable for those with preexisting conditions.

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. Nelson moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make health care unaffordable for those with preexisting conditions.

**SEC. 1314. ACCESS TO COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS IN AREAS WITHOUT ANY AVAILABLE EXCHANGE PLANS.**

Part 2 of subtitle D of title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Pub. L. 111-148, 124 Stat. 113, 42 U.S.C. 18031 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 1314. ACCESS TO COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS IN AREAS WITHOUT ANY AVAILABLE EXCHANGE PLANS.

"(a) In General.—
Mr. King moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) support the preservation, maintenance, sustainability, and expansion of the National Health Service Corps and public health nursing programs by preserving such programs and their funding.

Mr. KING. Madam President, I intend to move, with the support of Mr. BLUMENTHAL and Mrs. SHAHEEN, that H.R. 1628 be committed to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) will protect, preserve, maintain, sustain, and expand all programs related to addressing, identifying causes of, and reducing infant mortality.

I request unanimous consent that this motion to commit be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. King moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) supports the promotion of maternal and child health, including the reduction of infant, child, and maternal mortality, through the use of home visiting services by extending funding for maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting programs under section 511 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 711) through the 10-year budget window.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motions to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that they be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing health insurance premiums for veterans of War in Afghanistan.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing health insurance premiums for veterans of the War in Iraq.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing health insurance premiums for World War II veterans.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing health insurance premiums for Social Security recipients.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing health insurance premiums for pregnant women.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing health insurance premiums for parents of children ages 3-10.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing health insurance premiums for middle-class families.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing health insurance premiums for individuals with pre-existing conditions.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing health insurance premiums for World War II veterans.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing health insurance premiums for Vietnam War veterans.
within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing health insurance premiums for people with cystic fibrosis.

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing health insurance premiums for people with ulcerative colitis.

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing health insurance premiums for people with rheumatoid arthritis.

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing health insurance premiums for people with HIV.

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing health insurance premiums for people with multiple sclerosis.

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing health insurance premiums for people with multiple sclerosis.
effect of increasing health insurance premiums for people with muscular dystrophy.

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing increasing out of pocket health care costs for veterans of the Wars in Afghanistan.

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for veterans with Parkinson’s Disease.

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for people with Lou Gehrig’s disease (ALS).

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing health insurance premiums for people with autism.

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for Social Security recipients.

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for people with cancer.

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for people with leukemia.

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for people with lymphoma.

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for people with lung cancer.

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for people with melanoma.

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for people with pancreatic cancer.
MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for people with ulcerative colitis.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for people with lupus.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for people with autism.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for people with Crohn’s disease.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for people with Parkinson’s Disease.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for people with Lou Gehrig’s disease (ALS).

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for people with Parkinson’s Disease.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for people with Lou Gehrig’s disease (ALS).

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for people with Lou Gehrig’s disease (ALS).

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for people with Lou Gehrig’s disease (ALS).

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for people with Lou Gehrig’s disease (ALS).

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for people with Lou Gehrig’s disease (ALS).

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for people with Lou Gehrig’s disease (ALS).

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for people with Lou Gehrig’s disease (ALS).

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for people with Lou Gehrig’s disease (ALS).

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for people with Lou Gehrig’s disease (ALS).

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for people with Lou Gehrig’s disease (ALS).

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of increasing out of pocket health care costs for people with Lou Gehrig’s disease (ALS).
MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of eliminating Medicaid coverage for Social Security recipients.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of eliminating Medicaid coverage for people with colon cancer.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of eliminating Medicaid coverage for people with lymphoma.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of eliminating Medicaid coverage for people with Alzheimer’s Disease.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of eliminating Medicaid coverage for people with Crohn’s Disease.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of eliminating Medicaid coverage for people with ulcerative colitis.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of eliminating Medicaid coverage for people with hip and knee pain.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of eliminating Medicaid coverage for people with Huntington’s disease.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of eliminating Medicaid coverage for people with multiple sclerosis.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of eliminating Medicaid coverage for people with diabetes.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of eliminating Medicaid coverage for people with asthma.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of eliminating Medicaid coverage for people with heart disease.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that are within the jurisdiction of such Committee to strike provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 that could have the effect of eliminating Medicaid coverage for people with cancer.
Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such Committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to charge individuals with asthma more for preventative health care.

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such Committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to charge individuals with metastatic cancer more for preventative health care.

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such Committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to charge individuals with Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) more for preventative health care.

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such Committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to charge individuals with autism more for preventative health care.

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such Committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make prescription drugs unaffordable for individuals with Down syndrome.

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such Committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that would weaken coverage provided by Medicaid to individuals with Alzheimer’s disease.

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such Committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that would weaken coverage provided by Medicaid to individuals with any rare disease.

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such Committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that would weaken coverage provided by Medicaid to individuals with lupus.

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such Committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that would weaken coverage provided by Medicaid to individuals with breast cancer.

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such Committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make prescription drugs unaffordable for individuals with blast injuries.

Mr. Merkley moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate within 3 days with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such Committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to charge individuals with congenital heart defects more for preventative health care. 
Mr. Van Hollen moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that would threaten to make prescription drugs unaffordable for individuals with Multiple Sclerosis.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Van Hollen moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that would threaten to make prescription drugs unaffordable for individuals with Down syndrome.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Van Hollen moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that would threaten to make prescription drugs unaffordable for individuals with childhood cancer.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Van Hollen moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that would weaken coverage provided by Medicaid to individuals with congenital heart defects.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Van Hollen moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that would weaken coverage provided by Medicaid to individuals with diabetes.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Van Hollen moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that would threaten to make prescription drugs unaffordable for individuals with Parkinson’s disease.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Van Hollen moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that would threaten to make prescription drugs unaffordable for individuals with Multiple Sclerosis.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Van Hollen moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that would threaten to make prescription drugs unaffordable for individuals with asthma.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Van Hollen moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that would threaten to make prescription drugs unaffordable for individuals with opioid addiction.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Van Hollen moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that would ensure that no individual with income of more than $750,000,000 annually would benefit from any of the TrumpCare tax cuts.

Mr. Van Hollen moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that would threaten to make prescription drugs unaffordable for individuals with Metastatic Cancer.
Mr. Van Hollen moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance of the Senate with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that would weaken coverage provided by Medicaid to individuals with childhood cancer.

Mr. Van Hollen moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance of the Senate with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that would weaken coverage provided by Medicaid to individuals with Multiple Sclerosis.

Mr. Van Hollen moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that would make prescription drugs unaffordable for individuals with mental health illness.

Mr. Van Hollen moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make prescription drugs unaffordable for individuals with Alzheimer’s disease.

Mr. Van Hollen moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make prescription drugs unaffordable for individuals with any rare disease.

Mr. Van Hollen moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make prescription drugs unaffordable for individuals with lupus.

Mr. Van Hollen moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make prescription drugs unaffordable for individuals with Parkinson’s disease.

Mr. Van Hollen moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make prescription drugs unaffordable for low- and moderate-income Americans.

Mr. Van Hollen moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that threaten to make prescription drugs unaffordable for preventative health care.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Motion to Commit With Instructions

Mr. FRANKEN moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure that all Native children with family incomes that do not exceed 133 percent of the Federal poverty line, as determined under section 1902(e)(14) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(e)(14)) continue to receive the same level of Medicaid benefits and protections that they are eligible for under current law, such as early and periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment services, and cost-sharing protections.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Motion to Commit With Instructions

Mr. FRANKEN moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that would—

(A) limit access to health care for Native American youth, including members of Indian tribes and Native Hawaiians, with respect to services related to—

(1) mental and behavioral health care;

(2) trauma-informed and trauma-specific interventions; and

(B) increase access to treatment services for substance use disorders in Indian country;

(C) limit the amount of revenue that States could collect through provider tax arrangements to fund the State share of Medicaid spending.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Motion to Commit With Instructions

Mr. FRANKEN moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure that no provision of the bill would—

(A) increase health care costs for farmers or other individuals and families living in rural areas;

(B) increase premiums and other health programs, or otherwise force States to pay more for providing health coverage under a State basic health program.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Motion to Commit With Instructions

Mr. FRANKEN moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that are within the jurisdiction of the Committee and that strike provisions that would—

(1) eliminate provisions that threaten the affordability of health plans offered by employers to their employees, or otherwise fail to address plan affordability for employees and their dependents.


There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Motion to Commit With Instructions

Mr. FRANKEN moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that are within the jurisdiction of the Committee and that strike provisions that threaten the affordability of health plans offered by employers to their employees, or otherwise fail to address plan affordability for employees and their dependents.

Mr. FRANKEN moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that are within the jurisdiction of the Committee and that strike provisions that threaten the affordability of health plans offered by employers to their employees, or otherwise fail to address plan affordability for employees and their dependents.


There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Motion to Commit With Instructions

Mr. FRANKEN moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that are within the jurisdiction of the Committee and that strike provisions that threaten the affordability of health plans offered by employers to their employees, or otherwise fail to address plan affordability for employees and their dependents.

Mr. FRANKEN moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that are within the jurisdiction of the Committee and that strike provisions that threaten the affordability of health plans offered by employers to their employees, or otherwise fail to address plan affordability for employees and their dependents.

Mr. FRANKEN moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that are within the jurisdiction of the Committee and that strike provisions that threaten the affordability of health plans offered by employers to their employees, or otherwise fail to address plan affordability for employees and their dependents.
the Treasury and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall establish a mechanism to ensure that, for any plan year beginning on or after the date described in subsection (a), any individual described in paragraph (2) may enroll in health insurance coverage in the small group market through the Exchange operating in the District of Columbia pursuant to subsection (a)(1).''.

"(2) PREMIUM ASSISTANCE TAX CREDITS AND COST-SHARING.—Any individual described in subsection (a)(2) who enrolls in health insurance coverage through the Exchange operating in the District of Columbia pursuant to subsection (a)(1) shall be eligible for any premium tax credit under section 36B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or reduced cost-sharing under section 1402, that the individual would otherwise be eligible for if enrolling in health insurance coverage in the individual market through the Exchange operating in the State of residence of the individual.

The first motion is supported by Senators CARPER, REED, MURPHY, BALDWIN, HIRONO, KLOBUCHAR, BLUMENTHAL, HEINRICH, COONS, HEITKAMP, STABENOW, CARDIN, MARKEY, WARNER, and VAN HOLLEN.

The second motion would send the reconciliation bill to the Committee with instructions to strike repeal of cost sharing reductions, CSRs, and advanced premium tax credits and replace this section with my legislation, the Marketplace Certainty Act, which would make CSRs permanent and extend them to those making up to 400 percent of the Federal poverty line. I want to reiterate what I previously said for the RECORD, that the Affordable Care Act, ACA, already prescribes that such payments are to be made from such a permanent appropriation pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1321.

The second motion is supported by Senators CARPER, REED, MURPHY, BALDWIN, HIRONO, KLOBUCHAR, BLUMENTHAL, HEINRICH, COONS, HEITKAMP, STABENOW, CARDIN, MARKEY, WARNER, and VAN HOLLEN.

The third motion would send the reconciliation bill to the Committee with instructions to strike provisions that would weaken or eliminate the small employer health insurance credit, prohibit the ability of entrepreneurs to purchase affordable health coverage through the individual marketplace, or allow discriminatory rating rules that prohibit small businesses from providing affordable, comprehensive benefits to their employees.

The third motion is supported by Senators BLUMENTHAL, CARPER, UDALL, BALDWIN, BROWN, PETERS, and STABENOW.

The fourth motion would send the reconciliation bill to the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee with instructions to strike provisions that would allow insurers to establish individual marketplaces, or allow discriminatory rating rules that prohibit small businesses from providing affordable, comprehensive benefits to their employees.

The fourth motion is supported by Senators HIRONO, KLOBUCHAR, BLUMENTHAL, MENENDEZ, and VAN HOLLEN.

The fifth motion would send the reconciliation bill to the Finance Committee with instructions to strike language that would remove mental health and substance use disorders from the list of essential health benefits or prohibit States from providing Medicaid coverage for more than 30 consecutive days of inpatient psychiatric services.

The fifth motion is supported by Senators CARPER, UDALL, MURPHY, BALDWIN, HIRONO, KLOBUCHAR, BLUMENTHAL, MENENDEZ, and VAN HOLLEN.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:
MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mrs. Shaheen moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure that nothing in the bill would—

(A) establish diabetes as a pre-existing condition such that insurers could charge higher premiums for diabetes patients; or

(B) reduce funding allocated to diabetes research, treatment, prevention, and education.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mrs. Shaheen moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) strike any language that would repeal advanced premium tax credits under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to insurance companies.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mrs. Shaheen moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Senate with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) strike any language that would repeal advanced premium tax credits under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to insurance companies.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mrs. Shaheen moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) strike any language that would repeal advanced premium tax credits under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to insurance companies.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mrs. Shaheen moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) strike any language that would repeal advanced premium tax credits under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to insurance companies.

I ask unanimous consent that I be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Menendez moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) prohibit eliminating or reducing funding available to States to provide comprehensive, affordable health care to low-income Americans by eliminating or reducing the availability of Federal financial assistance to States available under section 1905(y)(1) or 1905(z)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(y)(1), 1396d(z)(2)) or other means, unless the Director of the Congressional Budget Office certifies any such change will not—

(A) increase the number of uninsured Americans;

(B) decrease Medicaid enrolment in States that have not opted to expand eligibility for medical assistance under that program for low-income, non-elderly individuals under the eligibility option established by the Affordable Care Act under section 1902(a)(10)(A)(VIII) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(A)(VIII));

(C) reduce the likelihood that any State that has not opted to expand Medicaid under the eligibility option established by the Affordable Care Act under section 1902(a)(10)(A)(VIII) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(A)(VIII)) would opt to use that eligibility option to expand eligibility for medical assistance under that program for low-income, non-elderly individuals; or

(D) increase the State share of Medicaid spending under that eligibility option.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I intend to offer a motion to commit the reconciliation bill to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that No. 1, are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and No. 2, the bill shall not take effect until the Secretary of Health and Human Services certifies under oath, with standing given to each State attorney general for any charges of perjury, that no individual with a preexisting condition will be unable to receive the necessary medications to sustain their life, limbs, eyesight, or other necessary healthcare and medications for the pre-existing condition due to a State cutting essential health benefits, minimum services, or necessary medication from the insurance plans offered through their exchanges. I am offering this motion because individuals with preexisting condition must not lose access to the medications they need to manage their conditions and live full, productive lives.

The following Senators support my motion to commit: SHAHEEN and BLUMENTHAL.
I ask unanimous consent that the full text of my motion to commit be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. MENENDEZ moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) provide that the bill shall not take effect until the Secretary of Health and Human Services certifies under oath, with standing given to each State Attorney General for any charges of perjury, that no domestic violence victim will have less coverage for any condition arising from the abuse than they have under current law.

I ask unanimous consent that the full text of my motion to commit be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. MENENDEZ moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) add an automatic sunset to the bill and restate the Affordable Care Act if the uninsured rate increases 20 percent as compared to the rate at the beginning of fiscal year 2017.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I intend to offer a motion to commit the reconciliation bill to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) add an automatic sunset to the bill and restate the Affordable Care Act if the uninsured rate increases 20 percent as compared to the rate at the beginning of fiscal year 2017.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I intend to offer a motion to commit the reconciliation bill to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure that the bill shall not take effect until the Secretary of Health and Human Services certifies under oath, with standing given to each State Attorney General for any charges of perjury, that no domestic violence victim will have less coverage for any condition arising from the abuse than they have under current law.

The following Senator supports my motion to commit: BLUMENTHAL.

I ask unanimous consent that the full text of my motion to commit be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. MENENDEZ moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure that the bill shall not take effect until the Secretary of Health and Human Services certifies under oath, with standing given to each State Attorney General for any charges of perjury, that no domestic violence victim will have less coverage for any condition arising from the abuse than they have under current law.

I am offering this motion because survivors of domestic or sexual abuse must receive the necessary medications to sustain their life, limbs, eyesight, or other necessary healthcare and medications for the preexisting condition due to a State cutting essential health benefits, minimum services, or necessary medication from the insurance plans. The American people need health insurance that protects survivors.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I intend to offer a motion to commit the reconciliation bill to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) add an automatic sunset to the bill and restate the Affordable Care Act if the uninsured rate increases 20 percent as compared to the rate at the beginning of fiscal year 2017.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I intend to offer a motion to commit the reconciliation bill to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure that the bill shall not take effect until the Secretary of Health and Human Services certifies under oath, with standing given to each State Attorney General for any charges of perjury, that no domestic violence victim will have less coverage for any condition arising from the abuse than they have under current law.

I am offering this motion because survivors of domestic or sexual abuse must receive the necessary medications to sustain their life, limbs, eyesight, or other necessary healthcare and medications for the preexisting condition due to a State cutting essential health benefits, minimum services, or necessary medication from the insurance plans. The American people need health insurance that protects survivors.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I intend to offer a motion to commit the reconciliation bill to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure that the bill shall not take effect until the Secretary of Health and Human Services certifies under oath, with standing given to each State Attorney General for any charges of perjury, that no domestic violence victim will have less coverage for any condition arising from the abuse than they have under current law.

I am offering this motion because survivors of domestic or sexual abuse must receive the necessary medications to sustain their life, limbs, eyesight, or other necessary healthcare and medications for the preexisting condition due to a State cutting essential health benefits, minimum services, or necessary medication from the insurance plans. The American people need health insurance that protects survivors.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I intend to offer a motion to commit the reconciliation bill to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure that the bill shall not take effect until the Secretary of Health and Human Services certifies under oath, with standing given to each State Attorney General for any charges of perjury, that no domestic violence victim will have less coverage for any condition arising from the abuse than they have under current law.

I am offering this motion because survivors of domestic or sexual abuse must receive the necessary medications to sustain their life, limbs, eyesight, or other necessary healthcare and medications for the preexisting condition due to a State cutting essential health benefits, minimum services, or necessary medication from the insurance plans. The American people need health insurance that protects survivors.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I intend to offer a motion to commit the reconciliation bill to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure that the bill shall not take effect until the Secretary of Health and Human Services certifies under oath, with standing given to each State Attorney General for any charges of perjury, that no domestic violence victim will have less coverage for any condition arising from the abuse than they have under current law.

I am offering this motion because survivors of domestic or sexual abuse must receive the necessary medications to sustain their life, limbs, eyesight, or other necessary healthcare and medications for the preexisting condition due to a State cutting essential health benefits, minimum services, or necessary medication from the insurance plans. The American people need health insurance that protects survivors.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I intend to offer a motion to commit the reconciliation bill to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure that the bill shall not take effect until the Secretary of Health and Human Services certifies under oath, with standing given to each State Attorney General for any charges of perjury, that no domestic violence victim will have less coverage for any condition arising from the abuse than they have under current law.

I am offering this motion because survivors of domestic or sexual abuse must receive the necessary medications to sustain their life, limbs, eyesight, or other necessary healthcare and medications for the preexisting condition due to a State cutting essential health benefits, minimum services, or necessary medication from the insurance plans. The American people need health insurance that protects survivors.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I intend to offer a motion to commit the reconciliation bill to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure that the bill shall not take effect until the Secretary of Health and Human Services certifies under oath, with standing given to each State Attorney General for any charges of perjury, that no domestic violence victim will have less coverage for any condition arising from the abuse than they have under current law.

I am offering this motion because survivors of domestic or sexual abuse must receive the necessary medications to sustain their life, limbs, eyesight, or other necessary healthcare and medications for the preexisting condition due to a State cutting essential health benefits, minimum services, or necessary medication from the insurance plans. The American people need health insurance that protects survivors.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I intend to offer a motion to commit the reconciliation bill to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure that the bill shall not take effect until the Secretary of Health and Human Services certifies under oath, with standing given to each State Attorney General for any charges of perjury, that no domestic violence victim will have less coverage for any condition arising from the abuse than they have under current law.

I am offering this motion because survivors of domestic or sexual abuse must receive the necessary medications to sustain their life, limbs, eyesight, or other necessary healthcare and medications for the preexisting condition due to a State cutting essential health benefits, minimum services, or necessary medication from the insurance plans. The American people need health insurance that protects survivors.
same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that No. 1, are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and No. 2, ensure that no State can deny a woman who becomes pregnant Medicaid coverage regardless of income. I am offering this motion because healthcare repeal bills have one thing in common: the changes proposed will disproportionately harm women and minorities.

The following Senators support my motion to commit: BLUMENTHAL.

I ask unanimous consent that the full text of my motion to commit be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Menendez moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure that no State can deny a woman who becomes pregnant Medicaid coverage regardless of income.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I intend to offer a motion to commit the reconciliation bill to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that No. 1, are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and No. 2, ensure that no State can deny a woman who becomes pregnant Medicaid coverage regardless of income.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I intend to offer a motion to commit the reconciliation bill to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that No. 1, are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and No. 2, ensure that the bill will not take effect until the Secretary of Health and Human Services certifies under oath (with standing given to each State Attorney General to bring perjury charges) that no individual with autism or any caretaker of an individual with autism will have higher out-of-pocket costs as compared to average costs for similarly situated individuals in fiscal year 2017.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I intend to offer a motion to commit the reconciliation bill to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that No. 1, are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and No. 2, eliminate provisions that would harm older Americans.

I am offering this motion to protect American children from being harmed by the upheaval that will result in insurance markets from this bill becoming law.

I ask unanimous consent that the full text of my motion to commit be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Menendez moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) eliminate provisions that would harm older Americans.

I am offering this motion because individuals with autism and their caretakers face high costs of medical care and any legislation increasing those costs will prove burdensome for American families.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I intend to offer a motion to commit the reconciliation bill to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure that the bill will not take effect until the Secretary of Health and Human Services certifies under oath (with standing
instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) ensure that no individual who is enrolled in Medicaid and has or is recovering from a substance use disorder will lose coverage or services.
Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.
There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Blumenthal moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) ensure that mental health and substance use disorder treatments and services are guaranteed as an essential health benefit.
Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion, Gay’s amendment, to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.
There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Blumenthal moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) ensure that the bill will not increase the percentage of individuals in our Nation who do not have health insurance.
Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I intend off the following motion, Amelie, Amanda, and Evan’s amendment, to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. The motion is supported by Senator SHAHEEN.
There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Blumenthal moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) ensure that no Medicaid beneficiary will lose coverage or health services due to provisions or cuts in this bill.
Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion, Michelle’s amendment, to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.
There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Blumenthal moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) ensure that no State may ask for a waiver allowing for the imposition of pre-existing condition coverage limitations.
Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. The motion is supported by Senators CARPER, BROWN, REED, KING, COONS, WARREN, STABENOW, FEINSTEIN, KLOBUCAR, MARKEY, DURbin, CASEY, FRANKEN, SHAHEEN, CARDIN, UDALL, VAN HOLLEN, HIRONO, and MURRAY.
There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Blumenthal moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) ensure that there will be no funding reductions for disease prevention efforts of public health, including funding for the Prevention and Public Health Fund established under section 4002 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 300u-11).
Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. The motion is supported by Senators BLUMENTHAL, DUCKWORTH, and VAN HOLLEN.
There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Booker moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) ensure that consumers’ deductibles in the private health insurance market will not increase as a result of the enactment of the bill.
Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. The motion is supported by Senators BLUMENTHAL, CASEY, MENENDEz, SHAHEEN, and VAN HOLLEN.
There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Booker moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Booker moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) would ensure that the bill does not disrupt access to long term services and supports.

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the Record. The motion is supported by Senators BLUMENTHAL and VAN HOLLEN.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Booker moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) eliminate provisions of the bill that would increase health disparities among certain populations, including disparities on the basis of race and ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, religion, disability status, geographic location, and sexual identity and orientation.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the Record. The motion is supported by Senators BLUMENTHAL, COONS, and CARPER.

For years, Republicans painted a dystopic, doomsday picture of the Affordable Care Act. Just this week, President Trump talked about the so-called forgotten victims of the ACA.

The ACA isn’t perfect—no law is—but to say it is an abject failure for our Nation and for my State would be absolutely wrong. Our country’s uninsured rate is at the lowest level in our Nation’s history. In Illinois, our uninsured rate has been cut in half. These insurance gains are thanks to the Affordable Care Act. Insurance companies can no longer deny someone coverage or charge them sky-high premiums because of a pre-existing condition, benefitting roughly 5 million Illinoisians.

So my motion would instruct the Finance Committee to report out a bill—within 3 days—that would protect States from cruel and dangerous cuts that older enrollees may be charged relative to younger enrollees, and Federal funding provided under that Act (including levels of Medicaid funding for the Medicaid expansion population, Federal funding for tax credits, and maintaining reductions in uncompensated care costs).

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the Record. The motion is supported by Senators BLUMENTHAL and CARPER.

Some of the strongest opponents to the secretive and devastating Republican repeal effort are our hospitals, especially our rural hospitals, critical access hospitals, and safety net hospitals in underserved urban communities. In particular, they warn us that the devastating cuts in Medicaid will dramatically increase uncompensated care costs.

The Illinois Hospital Association tells us that slashing Medicaid like these Republican repeal bills do will cost Illinois between 60,000 and 95,000 healthcare jobs. You see, not only are our rural hospitals critical lifelines for healthcare in their communities, they are often the best jobs in town; yet these drastic Medicaid cuts will increase uncompensated care costs by billions, forcing cutbacks in services, staff, and expansion.

So my motion would instruct the Finance Committee to report out a bill—within 3 days—that would protect these hospitals and prohibit increases in uncompensated care costs for these critical facilities.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS
Mr. Durbin moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pension with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) would permit a State to continue to implement the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, if the Governor of that State elects to continue such implementation, including provisions relating to health insurance coverage gains, consumer protections (including provisions related to coverage of pre-existing conditions, essential health benefits, and the premium levels that older enrollees may be charged relative to younger enrollees), and Federal funding provided under that Act (including levels of Medicaid funding for the Medicaid expansion population, Federal funding for tax credits, and maintaining reductions in uncompensated care costs).

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the Record. The motion is supported by Senators BLUMENTHAL and CARPER.

Medicaid covers one in two births in Illinois. It helps pay for two out of every three seniors in nursing homes, and it is the largest payer of opioid and substance abuse treatment.

But guess what else Medicaid does? It helps 45 percent of school districts provide medical and therapy services for...
lower-income kids and those with special needs.

That is right, Illinois schools currently receive about $144 million in Medicaid funding each year.

They use this money to provide dental services for kids with disabilities, to purchase handicap equipment, and employing trained staff.

What would happen to kids nationwide if the $4 billion in Medicaid funding were to go away?

My motion would to instruct would instruct the Finance Committee to report out a bill—within 3 days—that would protect funding for schools and students and says, if you want to slash Medicaid, it won’t be on the backs of our kids.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. DURBIN moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure no reductions in Medicaid funding for items or services provided in, or under arrangements with, any kindergarten through grade 12 elementary school in the Nation.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. The motion is supported by Senators BLUMENTHAL and CARPER.

When thinking about Medicaid, we often talk about low-income children or pregnant women. But do you know the most expensive part of Medicaid?

It is providing long-term care for your grandmother, your grandfather—at home or in the nursing home. When Social Security and Medicare aren’t enough, Medicaid steps in to care for millions of seniors over age 65.

Medicaid helps pay for two out of three seniors currently in nursing homes.

These Republican proposals to slash Medicaid are so devastating that the American Association of Retired Persons, AARP, has come out in loud opposition to all the repeal bills.

My motion to commit would instruct the Finance Committee to report out a bill—within 3 days—that protects children and adults on Medicaid with disabilities from increased costs and fewer benefits.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Durbin moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure no individuals with disabilities on Medicaid lose benefits, have reduced provider payments for services furnished to them, or have any increase in out-of-pocket costs.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. The motion is supported by Senator BLUMENTHAL.

Under the ACA, our Nation has seen the largest decline in the child uninsured rate, and in Illinois, we have seen a 40 percent drop. Today more than 95 percent of kids in our country are insured.

Half of all children born in Illinois are covered by Medicaid.

That means they are guaranteed quality, comprehensive health coverage, from vaccinations and vision checks, to dental health, mental health, and lead poisoning screenings.

Medicaid serves low-income children in school, and we’ve visited many school-based health clinics that provide critical access and services for our kids.

But every single Republican healthcare repeal proposal would slash Medicaid for our most vulnerable kids, jeopardizing the services they receive and their ability to access care.

That is why my motion to commit would instruct the Finance Committee to report out a bill—within 3 days—that protects our kids and tells Republicans they will not be a bargaining chip in this cruel repeal effort.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Durbin moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure no children on Medicaid lose benefits, have reduced provider payments for services furnished to them, or have any increase in out-of-pocket costs.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. The motion is supported by Senators BLUMENTHAL and CARPER.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, Medicare is now financially stable for an additional 11 years.

Because of the healthcare reforms that improve the delivery of healthcare, seniors are now paying $700 less annually in premiums and cost-sharing.

The ACA is also closing the dreaded Medicare “donut hole”—the gap where seniors were faced with high costs for their drugs—saving 11 million seniors an average for $2,127 each year on their medications.

But Republicans want to jeopardize this progress.

Instead of strengthening Medicare for the long run, many of the Republican repeal bills would give a huge tax give-away to wealthy Americans—cutting years off Medicare’s solvency.

That is why my motion to commit would instruct the Finance Committee to report out a bill—within 3 days—that does not shorten Medicare’s solvency.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Durbin moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure the bill will not shorten the solvency of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund under section 1817 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i).

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed the RECORD.

When Republicans talk about the challenges facing Obamacare, they
tend to be a bit misleading. Let’s set the record straight.

What they are really talking about is within the individual market, where 6 percent of Americans get their coverage and more than 70 percent of those people get subsidies to help cover their costs.

One problem Republicans like to cite is lack of competition, that private, for-profit insurers are pulling out, leaving few choices.

We call these “bare counties,” and they are more common in rural areas and in States that did not expand Medicaid.

I agree that we need more competition in the individual market.

As a solution, my motion to commit instructs the Finance Committee—within 3 days—to report out a bill that requires insurers offering Medicare Advantage plans in a particular county, to also offer an individual market plan in the same county.

Medicare Advantage insurance plans make huge profits off the Federal Government, yet many of those same insurers are refusing to participate in the individual exchange.

In those bare counties, my motion says that, if you have a provider network and you are making money off the Federal Government, then you should also help improve choice by offering a plan in the exchange.

To address bare counties, my motion says that, if you have a provider network and you are making money off the Federal Government, then you should also help improve choice by offering a plan in the exchange.

Without a no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. Durbin moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that:

1. Are within the jurisdiction of such Committee; and
2. Require each insurer who offers a Medicare Advantage plan under part C of the Medicare program in a specific county to also offer health insurance coverage through the individual market in that county.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the Record. The motion is supported by Senator BLUMENTHAL.

All of these Republican repeal bills shift costs onto consumers, patients, hospitals, and state budgets.

None of them do anything to actually address what is driving the increase in healthcare costs. And one of those biggest drivers? Pharmaceutical costs—Blue Cross of Illinois tells me they spend more on prescription drugs than inpatient hospital care.

So what can we do to address prescription drugs? Have Medicare negotiate drug prices on behalf of seniors. Even the President says he supports this policy.

Medical can negotiate drug costs, the Veterans Administration can negotiate drug costs, why shouldn’t Medicare be able to leverage its 50 million beneficiaries to get a better deal?

This motion is simple; it is something the President has talked about, something the American people support.

This motion to commit would instruct the Finance Committee—within 3 days—to report out a bill that would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to begin negotiating drug prices on behalf of seniors in Medicare.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

1. Are within the jurisdiction of such Committee; and
2. Require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to, beginning not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, negotiate the price of drugs covered by the Medicare program on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the Record. The motion is supported by Senator DUCKWORTH.

The process Republicans have undertaken to repeal our healthcare law has been secretive, wrong, and undemocratic.

At first, it was 13 chosen apostles—all men—meeting in secret to craft their repeal measure.

But what I do know is that there have been no hearings, no opportunity for public input, and no opportunity for myself and Senator DUCKWORTH—as representatives of Illinois—to offer input.

If myself and Senator DUCKWORTH have been locked out of the process from the beginning, why then should our constituents have to pay the price for this partisan Republican effort?

So our motion is simple. It says that the Republican repeal bill cannot unfairly impose hardships on our Illinois constituents. It cannot increase costs on our constituents, cut services or benefits or eligibility for my constituents, eliminate essential health benefits for my constituents, or impose lifetime limits or discriminate against my constituents with preexisting conditions.

If Senator CRUZ who has been allowed to have input on this repeal bill—wants to take away health insurance “root and branch” from his constituents, that is fine.

But this motion protects my constituents in Illinois.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. Durbin moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that:

1. Are within the jurisdiction of such Committee; and
2. Prohibit increases in health insurance premiums or out-of-pocket health care costs for residents of Illinois; and
3. Prohibit reductions in eligibility or services, or any increases in cost-sharing (including premiums and co-payments) related to the eligibility of residents of Illinois to participate in the Medicaid program; and
4. Prohibit health insurance issuers from imposing annual or lifetime limits on residents of Illinois; and
5. Prohibit health insurance issuers from charging residents of Illinois who have pre-existing conditions more than the amount charged to healthy residents; and
6. Prohibit health insurance issuers from stopping coverage of any essential health care...
benefits provided under section 1392 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 1392).

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. The motion is supported by Senators CARDIN, MURPHY, DURBIN, BALDWIN, BLUMENTHAL, BROWN, COONS, DUCKWORTH, FEINSTEIN, FRANKEN, HEINRICH, KLOBuchar, MARKEY, MENENDEZ, NELSON, PETERS, SHAHEEN, VAN HOLLEN, and WYDEN.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Motion to Commit with Instructions
Ms. Stabenow moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) establish that the bill would not reduce the percentage or number of health plans that cover pregnancy, maternity, and newborn care, and would not increase out-of-pocket costs for such care.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. The motion is supported by Senators BOOKER, BALDWIN, BLUMENTHAL, BROWN, CARPER, CASEY, COONS, FEINSTEIN, MURPHY, HIRONO, MARKEL, MENENDEZ, PETERS, SHAHEEN, VAN HOLLEN, and WARREN.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Motion to Commit with Instructions
Ms. Stabenow moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) ensure that the bill would not reduce the number of individuals with mental illness enrolled in health insurance coverage.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. The motion is supported by Senators BOOKER, BALDWIN, BLUMENTHAL, BROWN, CARPER, CASEY, COONS, FEINSTEIN, MILLIBAND, HIRONO, HARKIN, MENENDEZ, PETERS, SHAHEEN, VAN HOLLEN, and WARREN.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Motion to Commit with Instructions
Ms. Stabenow moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) ensure that the bill would not reduce the percentage or number of health plans that cover pregnancy, maternity, and newborn care, and would not increase out-of-pocket costs for such care.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. The motion is supported by Senators BOOKER, BALDWIN, BROWN, BOOKER, FRANKEN, Kaine, Stabenow, DUCKWORTH, LEAHY, COONS, BLUMENTHAL, DURBIN, WARREN, WYDEN, PETERS, WARNER, King, MARKZY, CARDIN, MENENDEZ, NELSON, REED, UDALL, CARPER, BENNET, HIRONO, CANTWELL, HEINRICH, and VAN HOLLEN.

I would like to take a moment to thank my colleagues for their support. Being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Motion to Commit with Instructions
Ms. Hassan moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) ensure that no American will face reduced access to mental health care and services, and that the bill will not reduce the number of individuals with mental illness enrolled in health insurance coverage.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) reestablish, increases, and simplifies the small employer health insurance tax credit.

Motion to Commit with Instructions
Ms. Stabenow moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) increase competition in the individual health insurance market in order to reduce premium costs and out-of-pocket expenses.

Motion to Commit with Instructions
Ms. Stabenow moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) ensure that no American loses coverage or sees their health benefits reduced under section 1302(b) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 13202(b)), including ambulatory patient services, emergency services, hospitalization, maternity and newborn care, mental health and substance use disorder services, prescription drugs, rehabilitative and habilitative services, laboratory services, preventive and wellness services and chronic disease management, and pediatric services.

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. The motion is supported by Senators CASEY, BALDWIN, BROWN, BOOKER, FRANKEN, Kaine, Stabenow, DUCKWORTH, LEAHY, COONS, BLUMENTHAL, DURBIN, WARREN, WYDEN, PETERS, WARNER, King, MARKZY, CARDIN, MENENDEZ, NELSON, REED, UDALL, CARPER, BENNET, HIRONO, CANTWELL, HEINRICH, and VAN HOLLEN.

I would like to take a moment to thank my colleagues for their support. Being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Motion to Commit with Instructions
Ms. Hassan moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—
(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and
(2) ensure that no American will face reduced access to mental health care and services, and that the bill will not reduce the number of individuals with mental illness enrolled in health insurance coverage.
H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. The motion is supported by Senators Warner, Brown, Carper, Reed, Blumenthal, Warren, King, Klobuchar, Menendez, and Van Hollen.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. Markey moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure that nothing in the bill would increase costs or decrease benefits for any individual with Alzheimer’s disease or another dementia, including provisions that would reduce long term care coverage under the Medicaid program for Americans with Alzheimer’s disease.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. The motion is supported by Senators Manchin, Whitehouse, Brown, Blumenthal, Tester, King, Nelson, Warner, and Van Hollen.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. Markey moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure that nothing in the bill would increase costs or decrease benefits for any individual with Alzheimer’s disease or another dementia, including provisions that would reduce long term care coverage under the Medicaid program for Americans with Alzheimer’s disease.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. The motion is supported by Senators Manchin, Whitehouse, Brown, Blumenthal, Tester, King, Nelson, Warner, and Van Hollen.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. Markey moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure that nothing in the bill would increase costs or decrease benefits for any individual with Alzheimer’s disease or another dementia, including provisions that would reduce long term care coverage under the Medicaid program for Americans with Alzheimer’s disease.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. The motion is supported by Senators Manchin, Whitehouse, Brown, Blumenthal, Tester, King, Nelson, Warner, and Van Hollen.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. Markey moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure that nothing in the bill would increase costs or decrease benefits for any individual with Alzheimer’s disease or another dementia, including provisions that would reduce long term care coverage under the Medicaid program for Americans with Alzheimer’s disease.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. The motion is supported by Senators Manchin, Whitehouse, Brown, Blumenthal, Tester, King, Nelson, Warner, and Van Hollen.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. Markey moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) ensure that nothing in the bill would increase costs or decrease benefits for any individual with Alzheimer’s disease or another dementia, including provisions that would reduce long term care coverage under the Medicaid program for Americans with Alzheimer’s disease.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to H.R. 1628, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. The motion is supported by Senators Manchin, Whitehouse, Brown, Blumenthal, Tester, King, Nelson, Warner, and Van Hollen.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. Bennet moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pension with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) provide that if the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines that uncompensated care at rural hospitals (defined as low-volume or critical access hospitals) has increased as a result of the implementation of this Act, then this Act shall be repealed and those provisions of law that were amended or repealed by this Act (including provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the Social Security Act) shall be restored or reactivated as if this Act had not been enacted.

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. Bennet moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pension with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) provide that if the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines that uncompensated care at rural hospitals (defined as low-volume or critical access hospitals) has increased as a result of the implementation of this Act, then this Act shall be repealed and those provisions of law that were amended or repealed by this Act (including provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the Social Security Act) shall be restored or reactivated as if this Act had not been enacted.

**MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. Bennet moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pension with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) provide that if the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines that uncompensated care at rural hospitals (defined as low-volume or critical access hospitals) has increased as a result of the implementation of this Act, then this Act shall be repealed and those provisions of law that were amended or repealed by this Act (including provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the Social Security Act) shall be restored or reactivated as if this Act had not been enacted.
Mr. MANCHIN, Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to commit that would send H.R. 1628 to the Finance Committee with instructions to eliminate any provision that would hurt the clinics serving miners with Black Lung by increasing the number of uninsured individuals. I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. The motion is supported by Senators MANCHIN, BROWN, WARNER, KAINÉ, and COONS.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Manchin moves to commit the bill H.R. 1628 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) would—

(A) improve health literacy and access to wellness programs, including through Medicaid managed care and health insurance plans that offer education and wellness incentives; and

(B) encourage State and local health officials to expand health literacy and wellness programs, particularly among the newly insured.

Mr. MANCHIN, Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to commit the bill H.R. 1628 and ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

I move to commit the bill, H.R. 1628, to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) would—

(A) improve health literacy and access to wellness programs, including through Medicaid managed care and health insurance plans that offer education and wellness incentives; and

(B) encourage State and local health officials to expand health literacy and wellness programs, particularly among the newly insured.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I intend to offer the following motion to commit the bill H.R. 1628 and ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

I move to commit the bill, H.R. 1628, to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 3 days, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) would—

(A) improve health literacy and access to wellness programs, including through Medicaid managed care and health insurance plans that offer education and wellness incentives; and

(B) encourage State and local health officials to expand health literacy and wellness programs, particularly among the newly insured.
Mr. ENZI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, section 3001 of S. Con. Res. 3, the concurrent resolution on the budget for the fiscal year 2017, allows the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to revise the allocations, aggregates and levels in the budget resolution for legislation related to healthcare reform. The authority to adjust is contingent on the legislation not increasing the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2017 to 2026.

I find that amendment No. 271 fulfills the conditions of deficit neutrality found in sec. 3001 of S. Con. Res. 3. Accordingly, I am revising the allocations to the Committee on Finance, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, HELP and the budgetary aggregates to account for the budget effects of the amendment. I am also adjusting the unassigned to committee savings levels in the budget resolution to reflect that while there are savings in the amendment attributable to both the HELP and Finance committees, the Congressional Budget Office and Joint Committee on Taxation are unable to produce unique estimates for each provision due to interactions and other effects that are estimated simultaneously.

This adjustment supersedes the adjustment I previously made for the processing of S. Amdt. 267. This adjustment applies while this amendment is under consideration. Should the amendment be withdrawn, fail, or lose its pending status, this adjustment will be null and void and the adjustment for amendment No. 267 shall remain active.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables, which provide details about the adjustment, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

BUDGET AGGREGATE REVENUES

(Pursuant to Section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and Section 3001 of S. Con. Res. 3, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2017–2021</th>
<th>2017–2026</th>
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<td>Current Aggregates:</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Revised Aggregates:</td>
<td>2,675,888</td>
<td>14,193,273</td>
<td>31,460,160</td>
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</table>

REVISION TO ALLOCATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

(Pursuant to Section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and Section 3001 of S. Con. Res. 3, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
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<th>2017–2026</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Current Allocation:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget Authority</td>
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<td>Outlays</td>
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<td>13,073,093</td>
<td>31,233,186</td>
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<td>13,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Authority</td>
<td>-200</td>
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<td>13,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
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<td>31,246,786</td>
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</table>

REVISION TO ALLOCATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

(Pursuant to Section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and Section 3001 of S. Con. Res. 3, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2017–2021</th>
<th>2017–2026</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Budget Authority</td>
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<td>176,893</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
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<td>Outlays</td>
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<td>Revised Allocation:</td>
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<td>177,421</td>
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REVISION TO ALLOCATION TO THE UNASSIGNED COMMITTEE

(Pursuant to Section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and Section 3001 of S. Con. Res. 3, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2017–2021</th>
<th>2017–2026</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Allocation:</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
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<td>-4,608,689</td>
<td>-10,648,885</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Budget Authority</td>
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<td>-364,900</td>
<td>-1,432,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>-835,457</td>
<td>-4,608,689</td>
<td>-10,648,885</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HONORING CHIEF EDWARD SWITALSKI

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, today I wish to honor the 38-year public servant, Chief Edward Switalski. Known for his bravery and devotion to his family and community, Chief Switalski was killed in the line of duty on June 14, 2017, having been struck and killed by a motorist on Interstate 94 in Kalamos County, as he was responding to a previous car crash at that site. He is survived by his wife, Holly, and two daughters, Alison and Emily.

Chief Switalski's dream of becoming a firefighter arrived early. As a child, he volunteered to clean equipment and perform other tasks for his local fire department. His career began as a part-time paramedic at Pleasantview Fire District in Illinois in 1982; while there, he rose to become battalion chief before retiring after 32 years of service and moving to Michigan to be closer to his daughters.

While in Illinois, Chief Switalski won numerous awards and citations, including one for running into the basement of a burning building in an attempt to rescue one of his colleagues. The chief was also a compassionate volunteer who worked with the Orleans team to rebuild the community in the wake of the devastating Hurricane Katrina.

After his relocation to Michigan, Switalski became the chief of the Comstock, MI, fire department in 2013. Chief Switalski quickly became known as a visionary leader who would often pick up open firefighting shifts in his small department. Active in the community, the chief was involved in numerous organizations and was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Kalamazoo.

Colleagues have paid numerous tributes to Chief Switalski. A former chief of his felt the "first responders, the less public servant who was taken from the United States and State of Michigan. He was a man of integrity, who believed in the communities that he served."

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Colleagues have paid numerous tributes to Chief Switalski. A former chief of his felt the "first responders, the less public servant who was taken from the United States and State of Michigan. He was a man of integrity, who believed in the communities that he served."

In addition to his many legislative achievements, Senator D'Allesandro has served part-time in uniform in the U.S. Marine Corps and is an accomplished educator. Senator D'Allesandro was instrumental in getting NCAA status for SNHU and has remained extremely involved in New Hampshire education, having served as chairman of the New England Board of Higher Education. Appointed the first basketball coach in Southern New Hampshire University history in 1963, Senator D'Allesandro led the SNHU Penmen to three straight titles and compiled a record of 114–40 in 7 years of coaching collegiate athletics. He holds honorary doctorates from Franklin Pierce University, Daniel Webster College, and the New Hampshire Institute of Art, as well as degrees from the University of New Hampshire, Rivier University, New England College, and the New Hampshire Institute of Art. He is a member of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame, Inc., and is a director of the New Hampshire Athletics Council.

As one may gather, Senator D'Allesandro is passionate about bettering the lives of New Hampshire's young people through education, and I sincerely thank him for his years supporting our colleges and universities. I also thank his wonderful wife, Pat, who has stood by Lou's side and, in doing so, has also served the people of New Hampshire. I am honored to call Lou D'Allesandro a friend, as Senator for New Hampshire, I join my voice with the voices of so many other Granite Staters to express gratitude to Senator D'Allesandro for his extraordinary commitment to public service, his selfless contributions to higher education, and the positive impact he has made on the State of New Hampshire. Of course, I join all Granite Staters in wishing Lou a great American day.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MICHELS

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, Team Wyden will shortly lose one of its stalwarts, but before John Michels of my Portland office takes his well-deserved retirement after two decades of service to the people of Oregon, I want to take just a few minutes to recognize his many, many contributions.

John joined my office in the late 1990s through a week-long program run by the Department of Veterans Affairs. He had previously worked in construction, and he served as a jet engine mechanic in the U.S. Navy before coming to my office, so suffice it to say that he was not a stranger to long hours and tough assignments.

As a member of Team Wyden, John put his shoulder to the wheel to help other veterans when backlogs, bureaucracy, or red tape held up the care or the recognition they had earned. In his years of service, John has managed thousands of cases for Oregon constituents struggling with one Federal agency or another.

John has also always been a practical soul, helping with anything he could, from ordering and fixing things. He brought these skills to bear as our resident IT expert and computer whisperer in Oregon.

Anybody who has worked in the government can tell you it can be tough. The pace can be grueling, the cynicism can be frustrating, and the bureaucracy can be maddening, but as John will attest, there are few more rewarding experiences than helping a veteran receive overdue recognition or bringing a new VA facility to a rural community. For these reasons, I want to thank him for all the help he has provided over these past two decades. I have been fortunate to have him on my team, and we will all miss him greatly.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
OF CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I want to take a moment to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the city of Cheyenne, WY.

The city of Cheyenne is an irreplaceable asset in Wyoming's birth and development. Christened on July 4, 1867, Cheyenne was named after the Cheyenne Tribe found in the Dakota territory. As the population jumped from 9,000 to 30,000, an abundance of Cheyenne earned nickname "The Magic City of the Plains" in reference to how it seemingly sprouted overnight and kept...
on growing. This unfettered momentum showed enough potential that in 1886, 4 years before Wyoming became the 44th State, the construction of a State capitol was approved in Cheyenne. Among these barren plains, a wellspring of prosperity and opportunity was found for the independent, brave folks who were willing to work hard to build it. In that, Cheyenne’s legacy perfectly captures Wyoming’s spirit.

Cheyenne, WY, is a railroad town through and through. General Grenville Dodge, chief engineer for the Union Pacific Railroad, selected this dusty spot as a connecting point in the Nation’s first transcontinental railroad. Thousands of men and their families came here to lay track up the Gangplank, the unique geography that allows a gradual grading from the plains to the Laramie Mountains. Supply stores, banks, and dentists all sprang up in their wake to accommodate the booming town. Now, Interstate 80 runs alongside the Gangplank from Cheyenne to Laramie, where the climb from the plains to the mountains continues today. On March 3, 2006, the Cheyenne Downtown Depot became a functional historic landmark, solidifying the railroads irremovable stitching in the fabric of Cheyenne, WY, and the rest of the Nation.

During Cheyenne’s first fragile years, soldiers stationed at Fort D.A. Russell to protect the railroad. The base was established on the same day as the city, and construction began in October 1867. It later became the F.E. Warren Air Force base that continues to be crucial to Cheyenne today. The base was expected to last 6 months, then to dry up along with the town itself as folks followed the train tracks to find more work. However, Cheyenne endured—and the base along with it. It became a permanent Army installation in 1884, and ramshackle wood houssings were replaced with brick buildings. In 1930, it was renamed F.E. Warren Base by President Herbert Hoover to honor Wyoming’s first Governor, Francis Emmory Warren. It was officially renamed F.E. Warren Air Force Base in 1949, making it the oldest continuously active base in the Air Force system. The base is currently responsible for 15 missile alert facilities and 150 Minute Man III missiles and is known as Wyoming as a fixture in the Cheyenne community. The F.E. Warren Base and some 4,000 personnel on site continue to be a massively positive presence in the Cheyenne neighborhood, especially at Cheyenne Frontier Days.

As with the F.E. Warren Air Force Base, there would be no Cheyenne without Cheyenne Frontier Days. The first frontier day took place on September 13, 1897, kicked off with a parade led by Buffalo Bill Cody. This event was stationed by the brainchild of the Great Basin messenger agent Frank Angier, hired by railroad officials to increase the number of passengers. This was following the devastation of the prosperous cattle trade by the blizzards of 1886 to 1897, which killed thousands of cattle and the businesses of their barons. Cheyenne needed a boost, and the Cheyenne Frontier Days became the perfect solution. The first rodeo was attended by 400 folks and there have been coming back ever since. Today Frontier Days is the world’s largest outdoor rodeo, while also boasting world famous musical acts. In 2016, 259,193 people attended the event to watch professional cowboys compete for over $1 million while enjoying the festive celebration of cowboy culture. This event symbolizes the western spirit that beats from within Cheyenne throughout the rest of Wyoming.

In honor of the 150th anniversary of Cheyenne, WY, I urge my esteemed colleagues to visit this “Magic City” themselves. I congratulate all the folks who work to preserve Cheyenne’s rich history and continue its valuable legacy. I stand proudly with them in celebrating this historical achievement.

TRIBUTE TO ELLEN SCHLECHTER
- Mr. ROUNDS. Madam President, today I recognize the distinguished accomplishment of a young South Dakotan, Ellen Schlechter, a 2017 recipient of the National Federation of Independent Businesses NFIB Young Entrepreneur Award. Ellen is a recent high school graduate from Orient, SD, and the founder and owner of The Calving Book App, a convenient and simple way to keep calf records on a user’s smartphone, tablet, or computer.

Growing up raising cattle, Ellen recognized a need in the agricultural sector for an application that would allow producers to document all of their cattle records in one place. Two years after the launch of The Calving Book App, Ellen has introduced an advanced version of the app and been featured in numerous publications and on local media in our State.

I extend my congratulations to Ellen for being recognized by the NFIB for her accomplishments and entrepreneurial spirit, and I thank her for the work she has done to help our producers become more efficient. I wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO ABIGAIL KOISI
- Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize the hard work of my Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee intern Abigail Kosiak. Abigail hails from Sioux Falls, SD, and is a rising junior at Utah State University.

While interning on the Commerce Committee, Abigail worked in the committee’s front office, assisted the Communications, Technology, Innovation, and Transportation Subcommittee and gave tours of the Capitol. She is a dedicated worker who was committed to getting the most out of her internship.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Abigail for all of the fine work she did for the Commerce Committee and wish her continued success in the years to come.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE
At 10:06 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:
- H.R. 3178. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the delivery of home infusion therapy and dialysis and the application of the Stark rule under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.
- H.R. 3361. An act to provide congressional review and to counter aggression by the Governments of Iran, the Russian Federation, and North Korea, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 4003(e) of the 21st Century Cures Act (Public Law 114–255), and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Health Information Technology Advisory Committee: Ms. Cynthia A. Fisher of Newton, Massachusetts.

MEASURES REFERRED
The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:
- H.R. 3178. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the delivery of home infusion therapy and dialysis and the application of the Stark rule under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS
The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. SCHUMACHER, Mr. DIIORE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. UDALL):
- S. 1632. A bill to establish an additional fund in the Treasury to meet existing statutory obligations to reimburse costs reasonably incurred as a result of the reorganization of broadcast television spectrum, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WYDEN:
- S. 1633. A bill to promote innovative approaches to outdoor recreation on Federal land and to open up opportunities for collaboration with non-Federal partners, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MARKKAY):
S. 1634. A bill to require auto dealers to fix outstanding safety recalls before selling or leasing a used passenger motor vehicle; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 1635. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend authority for operation of the Veterans Affairs Regional Office in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. BROWN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1636. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to inverted corporations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1637. A bill to prohibit the award of Federal Government contracts to inverted domestic corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KAIN, Mr. KING, and Mr. SCOTT):

S. 1638. A bill to provide priority under certain federally assisted housing programs to assist youths who are aging out of foster care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 1639. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emission fees, reduce the rate of the corporate income tax, provide tax credits to workers, deliver additional benefits to retired and disabled Americans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. BALKIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1640. A bill to reform the financing of Senate elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. HILLER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. UDALL, Mr. COONS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. CORTÉZ MASTO):

S. Res. 232. A resolution supporting the inclusion and meaningful engagement of Latinos in environmental protection and conservation efforts; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. TESTER):

S. Res. 233. A resolution designating August 16, 2017, as "National Airborne Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 223. At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 223, a bill to provide immunity from suit for certain individuals who disclose potential examples of financial exploitation of senior citizens, and for other purposes.

S. 298. At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 298, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 339. At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 339, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 364. At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 364, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to exempt certain recipients of Department of Agriculture conservation assistance from certain reporting requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 450. At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 450, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employers for unemployment duties performed in other States.

S. 671. At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 671, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income certain amounts realized on the disposition of property raised or produced by a student farmer, and for other purposes.

S. 711. At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 711, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for S corporation reform, and for other purposes.

S. 859. At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 859, a bill to authorize the Director of the United States Geological Survey to conduct monitoring, assessment, science, and research, in support of the binational fisheries within the Great Lakes Basin, and for other purposes.

S. 930. At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 910, a bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes.

S. 1172. At the request of Ms. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1172, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 1182. At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1182, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 100th anniversary of The American Legion.

S. 1330. At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1326, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of American innovation and significant innovation and pioneering efforts of individuals or groups from each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the United States territories, to promote the importance of innovation in the United States, the District of Columbia, and the United States territories, and for other purposes.

S. 1332. At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1332, a bill to establish the Great Lakes Aquatic Connectivity and Infrastructure Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1345. At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1354, a bill to establish an Individual Market Reinsurance fund to provide funding for State individual market stabilization reinsurance programs.

S. 1423. At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1425, a bill to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2006, and for other purposes.

S. 1496. At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Delaware
SEC. 2. MODIFICATIONS TO RULES RELATING TO INVERTED CORPORATIONS—

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 269A of title 26, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 7874 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as amended to read as follows:

(1) substantially all of the properties held directly or indirectly by a domestic corporation, or

(2) substantially all of the assets of, or substantially all of the properties constituting a trade or business of, a domestic partnership, and

(3) after the acquisition, either—

(A) the acquisition is by the stockholders of the acquired domestic corporation, or

(B) at least 50 percent of the outstanding stock of the acquired domestic corporation is held by persons who, at the time of the acquisition, held substantially all of the properties held directly or indirectly by a domestic corporation,

(4) MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL.—For purposes of subsection (a)(4), the control of an expanded affiliated group is to be treated as occurring directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States, if substantially all of the management and control of an expanded affiliated group is owned or substantially managed by individuals who are citizens or residents of the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUced BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. BROWN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. WARREN): S. 1636. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to inverted corporations, to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1636

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the “Stop Corporate Inversions Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. MODIFICATIONS TO RULES RELATING TO INVERTED CORPORATIONS—

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 7874 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 7871(a)(4), a foreign corporation shall be treated for purposes of this title as a domestic corporation if—

(A) such corporation would be a surrogate foreign corporation if subsection (a)(2) were applied by substituting ‘80 percent’ for ‘60 percent’, or

(B) such corporation is an inverted domestic corporation.

(2) INVERTED DOMESTIC CORPORATION.—For purposes of subsection (a), a foreign corporation shall be treated as an inverted domestic corporation if, pursuant to a plan or a series of related transactions—

(A) the entity completes after May 8, 2014, the direct or indirect acquisition of—

(3) SIGNIFICANT DOMESTIC BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.—For purposes of paragraph (2)(B)(iii), an expanded affiliated group has significant domestic business activities if at least 25 percent of—

(A) shares of the group have been substantially owned by—

(1) substantially all of the properties held directly or indirectly by a domestic corporation, or

(2) substantially all of the assets of, or substantially all of the properties constituting a trade or business of, a domestic partnership, and

(3) after the acquisition, either—

(A) the acquisition is by the stockholders of the acquired domestic corporation, or

(B) at least 50 percent of the outstanding stock of the acquired domestic corporation is held by persons who, at the time of the acquisition, held substantially all of the properties held directly or indirectly by a domestic corporation, or

(4) MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL.—For purposes of paragraph (3)(A), the control of an expanded affiliated group is to be treated as occurring directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States, if substantially all of the management and control of an expanded affiliated group is owned or substantially managed by individuals who are citizens or residents of the United States.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1636

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the “Stop Corporate Inversions Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. MODIFICATIONS TO RULES RELATING TO INVERTED CORPORATIONS—

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 7874 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 7871(a)(4), a foreign corporation shall be treated for purposes of this title as a domestic corporation if—

(A) such corporation would be a surrogate foreign corporation if subsection (a)(2) were applied by substituting ‘80 percent’ for ‘60 percent’, or

(B) such corporation is an inverted domestic corporation.

(2) INVERTED DOMESTIC CORPORATION.—For purposes of subsection (a), a foreign corporation shall be treated as an inverted domestic corporation if, pursuant to a plan or a series of related transactions—

(A) the entity completes after May 8, 2014, the direct or indirect acquisition of—

(3) SIGNIFICANT DOMESTIC BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.—For purposes of paragraph (2)(B)(iii), an expanded affiliated group has significant domestic business activities if at least 25 percent of—

(A) shares of the group have been substantially owned by—

(1) substantially all of the properties held directly or indirectly by a domestic corporation, or

(2) substantially all of the assets of, or substantially all of the properties constituting a trade or business of, a domestic partnership, and

(3) after the acquisition, either—

(A) the acquisition is by the stockholders of the acquired domestic corporation, or

(B) at least 50 percent of the outstanding stock of the acquired domestic corporation is held by persons who, at the time of the acquisition, held substantially all of the properties held directly or indirectly by a domestic corporation, or

(4) MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL.—For purposes of paragraph (3)(A), the control of an expanded affiliated group is to be treated as occurring directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States, if substantially all of the management and control of an expanded affiliated group is owned or substantially managed by individuals who are citizens or residents of the United States.
“(d) the income of the group is derived in the United States, determined in the same manner as such determinations are made for purposes of determining substantial business activities under regulations referred to in paragraph (3) as in effect on January 18, 2017, but applied by treating all references to ‘foreign country’ and ‘relevant foreign country’ as references to ‘the United States’. The Secretary may issue regulations decreasing the threshold percent in any of the tests under such regulations for determining if business activities constitute significant domestic business activities for purposes of this paragraph.

(b) FURTHER AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Clause (i) of section 7874(a)(2)(B) of such Code is amended by striking ‘‘after March 4, 2003, and’’ and inserting ‘‘after March 4, 2003, and before May 8, 2014.’’.

(2) Subsection (c) of section 7874 of such Code is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)—


(ii) by inserting ‘‘or ‘‘(b)(2)(A)’’ after ‘‘(a)(2)(B)(ii)’’ in subparagraph (B),

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting ‘‘or ‘‘(b)(2)(B)(k)’’, as the case may be,’’ after ‘‘(a)(2)(B)(l)’’;

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years ending after May 8, 2014.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1637. A bill to prohibit the award of Federal Government contracts to inverted domestic corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the title of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1637

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ‘‘American Business for American Companies Act of 2017’’.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON AWARDING CONTRACTS TO INVERTED DOMESTIC CORPORATIONS.

(a) CIVILIAN CONTRACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 47 of title 41, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§4713. Prohibition on awarding contracts to inverted domestic corporation.—

"(a) PROHIBITION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an executive agency may not award a contract for the procurement of property or services to—

"(A) any foreign incorporated entity that such head has determined is an inverted domestic corporation or any subsidiary of such entity; or

"(B) any joint venture if more than 10 percent of the joint venture (by vote or value) is held by a foreign incorporated entity that such head has determined is an inverted domestic corporation or any subsidiary of such entity.

"(2) SUBCONTRACTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The head of an executive agency shall include in each contract for the procurement of property or services awarded by the agency with a value in excess of $100,000,000, other than a contract for exclusively commercial items, a clause that prohibits the prime contractor on such contract from—

"(i) awarding a first-tier subcontract with a value greater than 10 percent of the total value of the prime contract to an entity or joint venture described in paragraph (1); or

"(ii) structuring subcontract tiers in a manner designed to avoid the limitation in paragraph (1) by enabling an entity or joint venture described in paragraph (1) to perform more than 10 percent of the total value of the prime contract as a lower-tier subcontract.

"(B) PENALTIES.—The contract clause included in contracts pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall provide that, in the event that the prime contractor violates the contract clause—

"(i) the prime contract may be terminated for default; and

"(ii) the offerer may be referred to the suspension or debarment official for the appropriate agency and may be a basis for suspension or debarment.

"(B) INVERTED DOMESTIC CORPORATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, a foreign incorporated entity shall be treated as an inverted domestic corporation, as the case may be, after ‘‘surrogate foreign corporation’’.

"(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to awards and orders issued after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) DETERMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A foreign incorporated entity described in paragraph (1) shall not be treated as an inverted domestic corporation if the entity—

"(A) is a majority-owned subsidiary of a parent entity that is not an inverted domestic corporation, or

"(B) has substantially all of its business activities, including significant activities, conducted within the United States;

"(C) is an affiliate of a United States person as defined in section 7874(a)(5); or

"(D) is a member of an expanded affiliated group which includes a United States person as defined in section 7874(a)(5).

"(2) TASK AND DELIVERY ORDERS.—This section does not apply to task and delivery orders.

(c) WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an executive agency may waive the prohibition described in subsection (a) with respect to any Federal Government contract under the authority of such head if the head determines that the waiver is—

"(A) required in the interest of national security; or

"(B) necessary for the efficient or effective administration of Federal or federally funded programs.

"(D) APPLICABILITY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), this section shall not apply to any contract entered into before the date of the enactment of this section.

"(2) TASK AND DELIVERY ORDERS.—This section shall apply to task and delivery orders issued after the date of the enactment of this section; but shall not apply to task and delivery orders issued before the date of such enactment.

"(D) SCOPE.—This section shall only apply to contracts subject to regulation under the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

"(E) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—

"(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following terms have the meanings given to them in section 835(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 395(c)).

"(2) SPECIAL RULES.—This section shall not apply to contracts entered into after the date of the enactment of this section.
(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 47 of title 41, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 4712 the following item: ‘‘4713. Prohibition on awarding contracts to inverted domestic corporations.’’

(b) DEFERRING CONTRACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 137 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

§2340. Prohibition on awarding contracts to inverted domestic corporations

(a) Prohibition.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an agency may not award a contract for the procurement of property or services awarded by the executive agency with a value in excess of $10,000,000, other than a contract for exclusively commercial items, to a foreign incorporated entity or joint venture described in paragraph (1); or

(ii) the employee compensation incurred by the group is incurred with respect to employees based in the United States;

(iii) the assets of the group are located in the United States; or

(iv) the income of the group is derived in the United States.

(b) Determination.—Determinations pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be made in the same manner as such determinations are made for purposes of determining substantial business activities under regulations referred to in subsection (a).

(c) Waiver.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an agency may waive subsection (a) with respect to any contract described by the Secretary of the Treasury, and such expanded affiliated group has significant domestic business activities.

(2) Scope.—This section applies only to contracts subject to regulation under the Federal Acquisition Regulation and the Defense Supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(3) Definitions and Special Rules.—(A) In general.—In this section, the term ‘‘expanded affiliated group’’, ‘‘foreign incorporated entity’’, ‘‘person’’, ‘‘domestic’’, and ‘‘foreign’’ have the meaning given those terms in section 2340 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 395(c)).

(B) Special Rules.—In applying subsection (b) of this section for purposes of subsection (a), the terms ‘‘expanded affiliated group’’ and the rules described under 835(o)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 395(o)(1)) shall apply.

(2) Clerical Amendment.—The amendments made by the amendment made by subsection (a) by inserting after the item relating to section 2539 the following new item:

§2340. Prohibition on awarding contracts to inverted domestic corporations.

(c) Regulations Regarding Management and Control.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary’s delegate) shall, by regulations prescribed under section 2340(b)(1)(B)(i) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsections (a) and (b), respectively, prescribe regulations for purposes of determining cases in which the management and control of an expanded affiliated group is to be treated as occurring, directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States. The regulations prescribed under the preceding sentence shall apply to periods after May 8, 2014.

(2) Executive Officers and Senior Management.—The regulations prescribed under paragraph (1) shall provide that the management and control of an expanded affiliated group shall be treated as occurring, directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States if substantially all of the executive officers and senior management of the expanded affiliated group who exercise day-to-day responsibility for making decisions involving strategic, financial, and operational policies of the expanded affiliated group are based or primarily located within the United States. Individuals who in fact exercise such day-to-day responsibilities shall be treated as executive officers and senior management regardless of their title.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. BERNSTEIN, Ms. BUKATSKY, Mr. BLEMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1640. A bill to reform the financing of Senate elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:
7. By State law as the last day to qualify for a position on the general election ballot.

(4) FAIR ELECTIONS START DATE.—The term "Fair Elections start date" means, with respect to any candidate, the date that is 140 days before—

(a) the date of the primary election; or

(b) in the case of a State that does not hold a primary election prescribed by State law as the last day to qualify for a position on the general election ballot.

(5) FUND.—The term "Fund" means the Fair Elections Fund established by section 502.

(6) IMMEDIATE FAMILY.—The term "immediate family" means, with respect to any candidate—

(a) the candidate’s spouse;

(b) a child, stepchild, parent, grandparent, brother, half-brother, sister, or half-sister of the candidate or the candidate’s spouse; and

(c) the spouse of any person described in subparagraph (B).

(7) MATCHING CONTRIBUTION.—The term "matching contribution" means a matching payment provided to a participating candidate for qualified small dollar contributions, as provided under section 523.

(8) NONPARTICIPATING CANDIDATE.—The term "nonparticipating candidate" means a candidate for Senator who is not a participating candidate.

(9) PARTICIPATING CANDIDATE.—The term "participating candidate" means a candidate for Senator who is certified under section 515 as being eligible to receive an allocation from the Fund.

(10) QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTION.—The term "qualifying contribution" means, with respect to a candidate, a contribution that—

(A) is in an amount that is—

(i) not less than the greater of $5 or the amount determined by the Commission under section 531; and

(ii) not more than the greater of $150 or the amount determined by the Commission under section 531;

(B) is made by an individual—

(i) who is a resident of the State in which such candidate is seeking election; and

(ii) who is not otherwise prohibited from making a contribution under this Act;

(C) is made during the Fair Elections qualifying period; and

(D) meets the requirements of section 512(b).

(11) QUALIFIED SMALL DOLLAR CONTRIBUTION.—The term "qualified small dollar contribution" means, with respect to a candidate, any contribution (or series of contributions) that—

(A) which is not a qualifying contribution (or does not include a qualifying contribution);

(B) which is made by an individual who is not prohibited from making a contribution under this Act; and

(C) the aggregate amount of which does not exceed the greater of—

(i) $150 per election; or

(ii) the amount per election determined by the Commission under section 531.

(12) QUALIFYING MULTICANDIDATE POLITICAL COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTION.—The term "qualifying multicandidate political committee contribution" means any contribution to a candidate that is made from a qualified account of a multicandidate political committee (within the meaning of section 313(a)(2)).

(13) QUALIFYING MULTICANDIDATE POLITICAL COMMITTEE.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term "qualified account" means, with respect to a multicandidate political committee, a separate, segregated account of the committee that consists solely of contributions which meet the following requirements:

SEC. 101. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.

(1) UNFAIR INFLUENCE OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PRIVATE SOURCES.—The Senate finds and declares that the current system of privately financed campaign contributions to the United States Senate has the capacity, and is often perceived by the public, to undermine democracy in the United States by—

(A) creating a culture that fosters actual or perceived conflicts of interest by encouraging Senators to accept large campaign contributions from private interests that are directly affected by federal legislation;

(B) diminishing or appearing to diminish Senators’ accountability to constituents by compelling legislators to be accountable to the major contributors who finance their election campaigns;

(C) undermining the meaning of the right to vote by allowing monied interests to have a disproportionate and unfair influence within the political process;

(D) imposing large, unwarranted costs on taxpayers through legislative and regulatory distortions caused by unequal access to lawmakers for campaign contributors;

(E) making it difficult for some qualified candidates to mount competitive Senate election campaigns;

(F) disadvantaging challengers and discouraging competitive elections; and

(G) burdening incumbents with a pre-occupation with fundraising and thus decreasing the time available to carry out their public responsibilities.

(2) ENHANCED DEMOCRACY BY PROVIDING ALLOCATIONS FROM THE FAIR ELECTIONS FUND.—The Senate finds and declares that the adoption of the replacement of large private campaign contributions with allocations from the Fair Elections Fund for all primary, runoff, and general elections to the Senate would enhance American democracy by—

(A) reducing the actual or perceived conflicts of interest created by privately financed campaign contributions of public officials and restoring public confidence in the integrity and fairness of the electoral and legislative processes through a program which allows participating candidates to adhere to substantially lower contribution limits for contributors with an assurance that there will be sufficient funds for such candidates to run viable electoral campaigns;

(B) increasing the public’s confidence in the accountability of Senators to the constituents who elect them, which derives from the program’s qualifying criteria to participate in the voluntary program and the conclusions that constituents may draw regarding candidates who qualify and participate in the program;

(C) helping to reduce the ability to make large campaign contributions as a determinant of a citizen’s influence within the political process by facilitating the expression of support by voters at every level of wealth, encouraging political participation, and concentrating on the part of Senators through the matching of small dollar contributions;

(D) potentially saving taxpayers billions of dollars that may be (or that are perceived to be) currently allocated based upon legislative and regulatory agendas skewed by the influence of contributions;

(E) creating genuine opportunities for all Americans to run for the Senate and encouraging more competitive elections;

(F) encouraging participation in the electoral process by citizens of every level of wealth; and

(G) freeing Senators from the incessant preoccupation with raising money, and allowing them more time to carry out their public responsibilities.

SEC. 102. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND BENEFITS OF FAIR ELECTIONS FINANCING OF SENATE ELECTION CAMPAIGNS.

(1) ALLOCATION FROM THE FUND.—The term 'allocation from the Fund' means an allocation of money from the Fair Elections Fund to a participating candidate pursuant to section 522.

(2) BOARD.—The term 'Board' means the Fair Elections Oversight Board established under section 531.

(3) FAIR ELECTIONS QUALIFYING PERIOD.—The term 'Fair Elections qualifying period' means, with respect to any candidate for Senator, the period—

(A) beginning on the date on which the candidate files a statement of intent under section 522.

(B) ending on the date that is 30 days before—

(1) the date of the primary election; or

(ii) the case of a State that does not hold a primary election, the date prescribed by State law as the last day to qualify for a position on the general election ballot.

(4) FAIR ELECTIONS START DATE.—The term 'Fair Elections start date' means, with respect to any candidate, the date that is 140 days before—

(a) the date of the primary election; or

(b) in the case of a State that does not hold a primary election prescribed by State law as the last day to qualify for a position on the general election ballot.

(5) FUND.—The term 'Fund' means the Fair Elections Fund established by section 502.

(6) IMMEDIATE FAMILY.—The term 'immediate family' means, with respect to any candidate—

(a) the candidate’s spouse;

(b) a child, stepchild, parent, grandparent, brother, half-brother, sister, or half-sister of the candidate or the candidate’s spouse; and

(c) the spouse of any person described in subparagraph (B).

(7) MATCHING CONTRIBUTION.—The term 'matching contribution' means a matching payment provided to a participating candidate for qualified small dollar contributions, as provided under section 523.

(8) NONPARTICIPATING CANDIDATE.—The term 'nonparticipating candidate' means a candidate for Senator who is not a participating candidate.

(9) PARTICIPATING CANDIDATE.—The term 'participating candidate' means a candidate for Senator who is certified under section 515 as being eligible to receive an allocation from the Fund.

(10) QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTION.—The term 'qualifying contribution' means, with respect to a candidate, a contribution that—

(A) is in an amount that is—

(i) not less than the greater of $5 or the amount determined by the Commission under section 531; and

(ii) not more than the greater of $150 or the amount determined by the Commission under section 531;

(B) is made by an individual—

(i) who is a resident of the State in which such candidate is seeking election; and

(ii) who is not otherwise prohibited from making a contribution under this Act;

(C) is made during the Fair Elections qualifying period; and

(D) meets the requirements of section 512(b).

(11) QUALIFIED SMALL DOLLAR CONTRIBUTION.—The term 'qualified small dollar contribution' means, with respect to a candidate, any contribution (or series of contributions) that—

(A) which is not a qualifying contribution (or does not include a qualifying contribution);

(B) which is made by an individual who is not prohibited from making a contribution under this Act; and

(C) the aggregate amount of which does not exceed the greater of—

(i) $150 per election; or

(ii) the amount per election determined by the Commission under section 531.

(12) QUALIFYING MULTICANDIDATE POLITICAL COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTION.—The term 'qualifying multicandidate political committee contribution' means any contribution to a candidate that is made from a qualified account of a multicandidate political committee (within the meaning of section 313(a)(2)).

(13) QUALIFYING MULTICANDIDATE POLITICAL COMMITTEE.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term 'qualified account' means, with respect to a multicandidate political committee, a separate, segregated account of the committee that consists solely of contributions which meet the following requirements:
"(1) All contributions to such account are made by individuals who are not prohibited from making contributions under this Act.

(2) The aggregate amount of contributions which shall be allocable to such account and all other accounts of the political committee do not exceed the amount described in paragraph (11)(C).

SEC. 509. FAIR ELECTIONS FUND.

(a) Establishment.—There is established in the Treasury a fund to be known as the ‘‘Fair Elections Fund’’.

(b) AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED BY FUND.—The Fund shall consist of the following amounts:

(1) APPROPRIATED AMOUNTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts appropriated to the Fund.

(B) SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING AP-

PROPRIATIONS.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(i) there should be imposed on any pay-

ment made to any person (other than a State or local government or a foreign nation) who has a contract with the Government of the United States in excess of $10,000,000 a tax equal to 0.50 percent of amount paid pursuant to each contract, except that the aggregate tax on each contract for any taxable year under section 9005(c) and (d) shall not exceed $500,000; and

(ii) the revenue from such tax should be

appropriated to the Fund.

(2) VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS.—Vol-

untary contributions shall be deposited to the Fund.

(3) OTHER DEPOSITS.—Amounts deposited into the Fund under—

(A) section 513(c) (relating to exceptions to contribution requirements);

(B) section 521(c) (relating to remittance of allocations from the Fund);

(C) section 533 (relating to violations); and

(D) any other section of this Act.

(4) INVESTMENT EARNINGS.—Interest on, and the proceeds from, the sale or redemption of, any obligations held by the Fund under subsection (c).

(c) INVESTMENT.—The Commission shall invest portions of the Fund in obligations of the United States in the same manner as provided under section 9602(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(1) IN GENERAL.—The sums in the Fund shall be used to provide benefits to participating candidates as provided in subtitle C.

(2) DEPOSITS.—Under regulations established by the Commission, rules similar to the rules of section 9006(c) of the Internal Revenue Code shall apply.

SEC. 510. Qualifying Contributions.

(a) IN GENERAL.—A candidate for Senator who participates in at least—

(1) 1 public debate before the primary election with other participating candidates and other willing candidates seeking the same nomination as such candidate; and

(2) 2 public debates before the general election with other participating candidates and other willing candidates seeking the same office as such candidate.

(b) VERIFICATION OF QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Commission shall establish procedures for the auditing and verification of qualifying contributions to ensure that such contributions meet the requirements of this section.

SEC. 511. QUALIFYING MULTI-CANDIDATE COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) GENERAL RULE.—A candidate for Senator may receive contributions equal to the greater of—

(A) 10 percent of the amount of the allo-

cation such candidate would be entitled to receive for the primary election under section 522(c)(1) (determined without regard to paragraph (5) thereof) if such candidate were a participating candidate; or

(B) the amount determined by the Com-

mission under subsection (c).

(b) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO RECEIPT OF QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS.—Each qualifying contribution—

(1) may be made by means of a personal check, money order, debit card, credit card, or electronic payment account;

(2) shall be accompanied by a signed statement containing—

(A) the contributor’s name and the con-

tributor’s address in the State in which the contributor is registered to vote; and

(B) an oath declaring that the contrib-

utor—

(i) understands that the purpose of the qualifying contribution is to show support for the candidate so that the candidate may qualify for Fair Elections financing;

(ii) is making the contribution in his or her own name and from her or his own funds; and

(iii) has made the contribution willingly; and

(3) has not received anything of value in return for the contribution; and

(4) shall be acknowledged by a receipt that is sent to the contributor with a copy kept by the Commission for the Commission and a copy kept by the candidate for the election authorities in the State with respect to which the candidate is seeking elec-

tion.

(c) VERIFICATION OF QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Commission shall establish procedures for the auditing and verification of qualifying contributions to ensure that such contributions meet the requirements of this section.

SEC. 512. QUALIFYING MULTICANDIDATE COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) GENERAL RULE.—A candidate for Senator who participates in at least—

(1) 1 public debate before the primary election with other participating candidates and other willing candidates seeking the same nomination as such candidate; and

(2) 2 public debates before the general election with other participating candidates and other willing candidates seeking the same office as such candidate.

(b) VERIFICATION OF CERTIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 days after a candidate for Senator files an affidavit under section 511(a)(3), the Commission shall—

(i) certify whether or not the candidate is a participating candidate; and

(ii) notify the candidate and the Com-

mission of its determination.

(2) REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may re-

voke a certification under subsection (a) if—

(A) a candidate fails to qualify to appear on the ballot at any time after the date of certification; or

(B) a candidate otherwise fails to comply with any regulatory requirements of this title, including any regulatory requirements prescribed by the Commission.
“(2) REPAYMENT OF BENEFITS.—If certification is revoked under paragraph (1), the candidate shall repay to the Fund an amount equal to the value of benefits received under this title plus interest (at a rate determined by the Commission) on any such amount received.

“Subtitle C—Benefits

“SEC. 521. BENEFITS FOR PARTICIPATING CANDIDATES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—For each election with respect to which a candidate is certified as a participating candidate, such candidate shall be entitled to—

“(1) an allocation from the Fund to make or obligate to make expenditures with respect to such election, as provided in section 522;

“(2) matching contributions, as provided in section 523; and

“(3) for the general election, vouchers for broadcasts of political advertisements, as provided in section 524.

“(b) RESTRICTION ON USES OF ALLOCATIONS FROM THE FUND.—Allocations from the Fund received by a participating candidate under section 522 and matching contributions received under section 523 may only be used for campaign-related costs.

“(c) REMITTING ALLOCATIONS FROM THE FUND.

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the date that is 45 days after an election in which the participating candidate appeared on the ballot, such candidate shall remit to the Commission for deposit in the Fund an amount equal to the lesser of—

“(A) the amount of money in the candidate’s campaign account; or

“(B) the sum of the allocations from the Fund received by the candidate under section 522 and the matching contributions received under section 523.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—In the case of a candidate who qualifies to be on the ballot for a primary runoff election, a general election, or a general runoff election, the amounts descibed in paragraph (1) may be retained by the candidate and used in such subsequent election.

“SEC. 522. ALLOCATIONS FROM THE FUND.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall make allocations from the Fund under section 522(a)(1) to a participating candidate—

“(1) an amount equal to 67 percent of the base amount with respect to such participating candidate.

“(2) an amount equal to the lesser of—

“(A) 400 percent of the allocation such candidate is seeking election; or

“(B) the sum of the allocations from the Fund for a general election to a participating candidate in an amount equal to 25 percent of the amount which such candidate would be entitled to under this section for such election if this paragraph did not apply.

“(b) BASE AMOUNT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the base amount for any candidate is an amount equal to the greater of—

“(A) the amount of each qualified small dollar contribution received by the candidate from individuals who are residents of the State in which such participating candidate is seeking election; or

“(B) the amount determined by the Commission under section 531.

“(2) INDEXING.—In each even-numbered year after 2021—

“(A) each dollar amount under paragraph (1)(A) shall be increased by the percent difference between the price index (as defined in section 315(c)(2)(A)) for the 12 months preceding the beginning of such calendar year and the price index for the previous year (2020); and

“(B) each dollar amount so increased shall remain in effect for the 2-year period beginning on the first day following the date of the last general election in the year in which the amount is increased and ending on the date of the next general election; and

“(C) if any amount after adjustment under subparagraph (A) is not a multiple of $100, such amount shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of $100.

“SEC. 523. MATCHING PAYMENTS FOR QUALIFIED SMALL DOLLAR CONTRIBUTIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall pay to each participating candidate an amount equal to 600 percent of the amount of qualified small dollar contributions received by the candidate from individuals who are residents of the State in which such participating candidate is seeking election after the date on which such candidate is certified under section 531.

“(b) LIMITATION.—The aggregate payments under subsection (a) with respect to any candidate shall not exceed the greater of—

“(1) 400 percent of the allocation such candidate is entitled to receive under section 522; or

“(2) the percentage of such allocation determined by the Commission under section 531.

“(c) TIME OF PAYMENT.—The Commission shall make payments under this section not later than 2 business days after the receipt of a report made under subsection (d).

“(d) REPORTS.

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each participating candidate shall file reports of receipts of qualified small dollar contributions at such times and in such manner as the Commission may by regulations prescribe.

“(2) CONTENTS OF REPORTS.—Each report under this subsection shall disclose—

“(A) the amount of each qualified small dollar contribution received by the candidate;

“(B) the amount of each qualified small dollar contribution received by the candidate from a resident of the State in which the candidate is seeking election; and

“(C) the name, address, and occupation of each individual who made a qualified small dollar contribution to the candidate.

“(3) FREQUENCY OF REPORTS.—Reports under this subsection shall be made no more frequently than—

“(A) once every month until the date that is 90 days before the date of the election;

“(B) once every week after the period described in subparagraph (A) and until the date that is 21 days before the election; and

“(C) once every day after the period described in subparagraph (B).

“(4) LIMITATION ON REGULATIONS.—The Commission may not prescribe any regulations with respect to reporting under this subsection with respect to any election after the date that is 180 days before the date of such election.

“(e) APPEALS.—The Commission shall provide a written explanation with respect to any denial of any payment under this section and shall provide the opportunity for review and reconsideration within 5 business days of such denial.

“SEC. 524. POLITICAL ADVERTISING VOUCHERS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall establish and administer a voucher program for the purchase of airtime on broadcasting stations for political advertisements in accordance with the provisions of this section.

“(b) CANDIDATES.—The Commission shall only disburse vouchers under this subsection to participants certified pursuant to section 515 who have agreed in writing to keep and furnish to the Commission bills, receipts, and other information as it may require.

“(c) AMOUNTS.—The Commission shall disburse vouchers to each candidate certified under subsection (b) in an aggregate amount equal to the greater of—

“(1) $100,000 multiplied by the number of congressional districts in the State with respect to which such candidate is running for office; or

“(2) the amount determined by the Commission under section 531.

“(d) USE.—

“(1) EXCLUSIVE USE.—Vouchers disbursed by the Commission under this section may be used only for the purchase of broadcast airtime for political advertisements relating to a general election for the office of Senate by the participating candidate to which the vouchers were disbursed.

“(A) A candidate may exchange vouchers with a political party under paragraph (2); and

“(B) a political party may use vouchers only to purchase broadcast airtime for political advertisements for generic party advertising (as defined by the Commission in regulations) to support the slate or local office in a general election, or to support participating candidates of the party in support of such candidate; or
a general election for Federal office, but only if it discloses the value of the voucher used as an expenditure under section 315(d).

(2) Exchange with political party committee.—

"(A) In general.—A participating candidate who receives a voucher under this section may transfer the right to use all or a portion of the value of the voucher to a committee of the political party of which the individual is a candidate (or, in the case of a participating candidate who is not a member of any political party, to a committee of the political party of that candidate’s choice) in exchange for money in an amount equal to the cash value of the voucher or portion exchanged.

"(B) Continuation of candidate obligations.—The transfer of a voucher, in whole or in part, to a political party committee under this paragraph does not release the candidate from any obligation under the agreement made under subsection (b) or otherwise modify that agreement or its application to that candidate.

"(C) Party committee obligations.—Any political party committee to which a voucher or portion thereof is transferred is subject to the requirements of title III of this Act; and

"(D) Voucher as expenditure under FECA.—If a candidate transfers a voucher or any portion thereof to a political party committee under subparagraph (A)—

"(i) the value of the voucher or portion thereof transferred shall be treated as a contribution from the candidate to the committee, for purposes of section 302 and 304; and

"(ii) the committee may, in exchange, provide to the candidate only funds subject to the prohibitions, limitations, and reporting requirements of title III of this Act; and

"(iii) the amount, if identified as a ‘voucher exchange’, shall not be considered a contribution for the purposes of sections 315 and 513.

"(e) Value acceptance; redemption.—

"(1) Redemptions.—Each voucher disbursed by the Commission under this section shall have a value in dollars, redeemable upon presentation to the Commission, together with a complete and other information as may be required by the Commission for the purchase of broadcast airtime for political advertisements in accordance with this section.

"(2) Acceptance.—A broadcasting station shall accept vouchers in payment for the purchase of broadcast airtime for political advertisements in accordance with this section.

"(3) Redeeming.—The Commission shall redeem vouchers accepted by broadcasting stations by payment in accordance with subparagraph (b) upon presentation of documentation, subject to such documentation, verification, accounting, and application requirements as the Commission may impose to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the voucher redemption system.

"(4) Expiration.—

"(A) Candidates.—A voucher may only be used to pay for broadcast airtime for political advertisements to be broadcast before midnight on December 31st of the odd-numbered year following the year in which the voucher was issued by the Commission.

"(B) Exchange with political party committee.—A voucher held by a political party committee may be used to purchase broadcast airtime for political advertisements to be broadcast before midnight on December 31st of the odd-numbered year following the year in which the voucher was issued by the Commission.

"(C) Transfer and redemption.—The term ‘broadcasting station’ has the meaning given by section 315(f)(1)(a) of the Communications Act of 1934.

"(D) Committee.—The term ‘political party’ means a major party or a minor party as defined in section 9002 (3) or (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 9002 (3) or 9002 (4)).

"Subtitle D—Administrative Provisions

"§ 351. FAIR ELECTIONS OVERSIGHT BOARD

"(a) Establishment.—There is established within the Federal Election Commission an entity to be known as the ‘Fair Elections Oversight Board’.

"(b) Structure and membership.—

"(1) In general.—The Board shall be composed of 5 members appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, of whom—

"(A) 2 shall be appointed after consultation with the major party of the Senate; and

"(B) 2 shall be appointed after consultation with the minority leader of the Senate; and

"(2) Qualifications.—

"(A) In general.—The members shall be individuals who are nonpartisan and, by reason of their education, experience, and attainments, exceptionally qualified to perform the duties of members of the Board.

"(B) Professional.—No member of the Board may be—

"(i) an employee of the Federal Government;

"(ii) a registered lobbyist; or

"(iii) an officer or employee of a political party or political campaign.

"(3) Date.—Members of the Board shall be appointed not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

"(4) Terms.—A member of the Board shall be appointed for a term of 2 years.

"(5) Vacancies.—A vacancy on the Board shall be filled not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which the Board is given notice of the vacancy, in the same manner as the original appointment. The individual appointed to fill the vacancy shall serve only for the unexpired portion of the term for which the individual’s predecessor was appointed.

"(6) Chairperson.—The Board shall designate a Chairperson from among the members of the Board.

"(7) Duties and powers.—

"(A) Administration.—

"(i) In general.—The Board shall have such powers, duties, and functions as the Commission may prescribe, including the power to administer the provisions of this title.

"(ii) Review of fair elections financing.—

"(A) In general.—After each general election for Federal office, the Board shall conduct a comprehensive review of the Fair Elections financing program under this title, including—

"(i) the maximum dollar amount of qualified small dollar contributions under section 501(11); and

"(ii) the maximum and minimum dollar amounts for qualifying contributions under section 501(10);

"(iii) the number and value of qualifying contributions a candidate is required to obtain under section 512 to qualify for allocations from the Fund;

"(iv) the amount of allocations from the Fund that candidates may receive under section 522;

"(v) the maximum amount of matching contributions a candidate may receive under section 522;

"(vi) the amount and use of vouchers under section 524;

"(vii) the overall satisfaction of participating candidates and the American public with the program; and

"(viii) such other matters relating to financing of Senate campaigns as the Board determines are appropriate.

"(B) Criteria for review.—In conducting the review under subparagraph (A), the Board shall consider—

"(i) Qualifying contributions and qualified small dollar contributions.—The Board shall consider whether the number and dollar amount of qualifying contributions required and maximum dollar amount for such qualifying contributions and qualified small dollar contributions strikes a balance regarding the importance of voter involvement, the need to assure adequate incentives for participating, and fiscal responsibility, taking into consideration the number of primary and general election participating candidates, the electoral performance of those candidates, program cost, and any other information the Board determines is appropriate.

"(C) Adjustment of amounts.—

"(i) In general.—Based on the review conducted under subparagraph (A), the Board shall provide for the adjustments of the following amounts:

"(1) The maximum dollar amount of qualified small dollar contributions under section 501(11); and

"(II) The maximum and minimum dollar amounts for qualifying contributions under section 501(10);

"(III) The number and value of qualifying contributions a candidate is required to obtain under section 512(a)(1);

"(IV) The base amount for candidates under section 522(d);

"(V) The maximum amount of matching contributions a candidate may receive under section 522(b); and

"(VI) The dollar amount for vouchers under section 524(c);

"(ii) Regulations.—The Commission shall promulgate regulations providing for the adjustments made by the Board under clause (i).

"(D) Report.—Not later than March 30 following any general election for Federal office, the Board shall submit a report to Congress on the review conducted under paragraph (1). Such report shall contain a detailed statement of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Board based on such review.

"(D) Meetings and Hearings.—

"(1) Meetings.—The Board may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, and employ such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Board considers advisable to carry out the purposes of this Act.
"(2) QUORUM.—Three members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for purposes of voting, but a quorum is not required for members to meet and hold hearings.

"(3) Later than March 30, 2019, and every 2 years thereafter, the Board shall submit to the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration a report documenting and making recommendations relating to the administrative implementation and enforcement of the provisions of this title.

"(1) ADMINISTRATION.—

"(1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Each member, other than the Chairperson, shall be paid at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the minimum annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.

"(B) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson shall be paid at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the minimum annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level III of the Executive Schedule under section 5314 of title 5, United States Code.

"(2) PERSONNEL.—

"(A) DIRECTOR.—The Board shall have a staff headed by an Executive Director. The Executive Director shall be paid at a rate equivalent to a rate established for the Senior Executive Service under section 5312 of title 5, United States Code.

"(B) STAFF APPOINTMENT.—With the approval of the Chairperson, the Executive Director may appoint such personnel as the Executive Director and the Board determines to be appropriate.

"(C) ACTUARIAL EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—With the approval of the Chairperson, the Executive Director may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code.

"(D) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Upon the request of the Chairperson, the head of any Federal agency may detail, without reimbursement, any of the personnel of such agency to the Board to assist in carrying out the duties of the Board. Any such detail shall not interrupt or otherwise affect the civil service status or privileges of the Federal employee.

"(E) OTHER RESOURCES.—The Board shall have reasonable access to materials, resources, statistical data, and other information from the Congress and the agencies of the executive and legislative branches of the Federal Government. The Chairperson of the Board shall make requests for such access in writing when necessary.

"(F) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this subtitle.

"SEC. 532. ADMINISTRATION PROVISIONS.

"The Commission shall prescribe regulations to carry out the purposes of this title, including—

"(1) to establish procedures for—

"(A) verifying the amount of valid qualifying contributions with respect to a candidate;

"(B) effectively and efficiently monitoring and enforcing the limits on the raising of qualified small dollar contributions;

"(C) raising the raising of qualifying multicandidate political committee contributions through effectively and efficiently monitoring and enforcing the limits on individual contributions to qualified accounts of multicandidate political committees;

"(D) effectively and efficiently monitoring and enforcing the limits on the use of personal contributions to participating candidates;

"(E) monitoring the use of allocations from the Fund and matching contributions under this title through audits or other mechanisms; and

"(F) the administration of the voucher program under section 524; and

"(2) to respect the results of elections in a manner consistent with the best practices of States that provide public financing for elections.

"SEC. 533. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.

"(a) CIVIL PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF CONTRIBUTION AND EXPENDITURE REQUIREMENTS.—If a candidate has been certified as a participating candidate under section 513, the General Election Campaign Committee shall make an expenditure that is prohibited under section 513, the Commission shall assess a civil penalty against the candidate in an amount that is not more than 5 times the amount of the contribution or expenditure. Any amounts collected under this subsection shall be deposited into the Fund.

"(b) REIMBURSEMENT FOR IMPROPER USE OF FAIR ELECTIONS FUND.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Commission determines that any benefit made available to a participating candidate under this title was not used as provided for in this title or that a participating candidate has violated any of the restrictions set forth in this title, the Commission shall certify as a participating candidate and the candidate shall pay to the Fund an amount equal to—

"(A) the benefits so used or not remitted, as appropriate; and

"(B) interest, on any such amounts, at a rate determined by the Commission.

"(2) OTHER ACTION NOT PRECLUDED.—Any action by the Commission in accordance with this subsection shall not preclude enforcement proceedings by the Commission in accordance with section 3109(a), including a referral by the Commission to the Attorney General in the case of an apparent knowing violation of this title.

"SEC. 103. PREEMPTION, JOINT FUNDRAISING COMMISSIONS.

Section 302(e) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30102(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(6) No authorized committee of a participating candidate (as defined in section 501) may establish a joint fundraising committee with a political party with respect to any candidate or party advertising spot.

"SEC. 201. BROADCASTS RELATING TO ALL SENATE CANDIDATES.

(a) lowest unit charge; national committees.

"(1) Lowest Unit Charge. National Committees.—Section 312(b)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 312(b)(1)) is amended—

"(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “to such office” and inserting the following: “to such office, or by a national committee of a political party on behalf of such candidate in connection with such campaign,”; and

"(2) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “for preemptible use thereof” after “station.”

"(b) Preemption; Audits.—Section 315 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 315) is amended—

"(1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively, and redesignating them to follow the existing subsections (e) and (e); and

"(2) by redesigning the existing subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively, and inserting after subsection (c) (as redesignated by paragraph (2)) the following:

"(D) Preemption.—

"(1) in general.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), and notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (b)(1)(A), a licensee shall not preempt the use of a broadcasting station by a legally qualified candidate for Senator who has purchased and paid for such use.

"(2) Circumstances beyond control of licensee.—If a program to be broadcast by a broadcasting station is preempted because of circumstances beyond the control of the station, any candidate or party advertising spot scheduled to be broadcast during that program shall be treated in the same fashion as a comparable commercial advertising spot.

"(e) Audits.—During the 30-day period preceding a primary election, or the 60-day period preceding a general or special election, the Commission shall conduct such audits as it deems necessary to ensure that each licensee to which this section applies is allocating television broadcast advertising time in accordance with this section and section 312.

"(f) Revocation of License for Failure to Permit Access.—Section 312(a)(7) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 312(a)(7)) is amended—

"(1) by striking “or repeated”;

"(2) by inserting “or cable system” after “broadcasting station”;

"(3) by striking “ or cable system” after “the candidacy of the candidate, under the same terms, conditions, and business practices as apply to the most favored advertising of the licensee”; and

"(4) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as redesignated by section (e); and

"(5) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as redesignated by section (e).
(C) in paragraph (2), by striking "the terms" and inserting "licensee; station license."—The terms; and 

(2) in subsection (g), as redesignated by subsection (f)(1), by striking "The Commission" and inserting "REGULATIONS.—The Commission."

SEC. 202. BROADCAST RATES FOR PARTICIPATING CANDIDATES.

Section 315(b) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 315(b)), as amended by section 201, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking "paragraph (2)" and inserting "paragraphs (2) and (3)"; and 

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) in connection with an advertisement in the case of a participating candidate (as defined in section 501(9) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971), the charges made for the use of any broadcasting station for a television broadcast shall not exceed 80 percent of the lowest charge described in paragraph (1)(A) during—

"(A) the 45 days preceding the date of a primary or primary runoff election in which the candidate is opposed; and 

"(B) the 10 days preceding the date of a general or special election in which the candidate is opposed.

"(4) RATES.—A licensee shall provide to a candidate for Senate a rate card that discloses—

"(A) the rate charged under this subsection; and 

"(B) the method that the licensee uses to determine the rate charged under this subsection.

SEC. 203. FCC TO PRESCRIBE STANDARDIZED FORMS FOR REPORTING CANDIDATE CAMPAIGN ADS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall initiate a rulemaking proceeding to establish a standardized form to be used by each broadcasting station for the purposes of this section (as defined in section 315(f) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 315(f)) (as redesignated by section 201(b)(1)), to record and report the purchase of advertising time by or on behalf of a candidate and maintained by the Federal Communications Commission and to the Federal Election Commission for the purposes of this section—

"(1) the date and time of the broadcast; 

"(2) the length of the broadcast airtime. 

"(c) QUALIFIED MY VOICE FEDERAL SENATE CONTRIBUTIONS.—For purposes of this section, the term 'My Voice Federal Senate campaign contribution' means any contribution to Federal Senate candidates allowed under section 36C of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by this section, and 1040A.

"(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

"(1) Section 6211(b)(4)(A) of such Code is amended by inserting "SEC. 36C," after "36B,".

"(2) Section 1324(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting "SEC. 36C."

"(3) The table of sections of part C of subchapter IV of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 36B the following new item:

"Sec. 36C. Credit for Senate campaign contributions.

"(b) FORMS.—The Secretary of the Treasury, or his designee, shall ensure that the credit contributions to Federal Senate candidates allowed under section 36C of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by this section, may be claimed on Forms 1040EZ and 1040.

"(c) ADMINISTRATION.—At the request of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Federal Election Commission shall provide the Secretary with such information and other assistance as the Secretary may reasonably require to administer the credit allowed under section 36C of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

TITLE V—REVENUE PROVISIONS

SEC. 501. FAIR ELECTIONS FUND REVENUE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after chapter 36 the following new chapter:

"Chapter 37—Tax on Payments Pursuant to Certain Government Contracts

"Sec. 4501. Imposition of tax.

"Sec. 4501. IMPOSITION OF TAX.

"(a) TAX IMPOSED.—There hereby imposed on any payment made to a qualified person pursuant to a contract with the Government of the United States a tax equal to 0.50 percent of the aggregate amount paid.

"(b) LIMITATION.—The aggregate amount of tax imposed per contract under subsection (a) for any calendar year shall not exceed $500,000.

"(c) QUALIFIED PERSON.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘qualified person’ means any person who—

"(1) is not a State or local government, a foreign nation, or an organization described in section 501(c)(3) which is exempt from taxation under section 501;

"(2) has a contract with the Government of the United States with a value in excess of $10,000,000.

"(d) PAYMENT OF TAX.—The tax imposed by this section shall be paid by the person receiving such payment.
Title VI—Miscellaneous Provisions

SEC. 601. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act or amendment made by this Act, or the application of a provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act and amendments made by this Act, and the application of the provisions and amendment to any person or circumstance, shall not be affected by the holding.

SEC. 602. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as otherwise provided for in this Act, this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on January 1, 2019.

Submitted Resolutions

Senate Resolution 232—Supporting the Inclusion and Meaningful Engagement of Latinos in Environmental Protection and Conservation Efforts

Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. UDALL, Mr. COONS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. HAYES, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. Res. 232

Whereas Latinos are the largest ethnic group in the United States, with more than 56,600,000 Latinos making up 17.6 percent of the population of the United States;

Whereas the Latino community is projected to grow to nearly 1/4 of the population of the United States by 2050;

Whereas Latinos should have greater representation in the decision-making process related to environmental policy, public lands, and wildlife;

Whereas Latino conservation initiatives break down barriers, improve access to public land, and encourage outreach to, and new opportunities for, the Latino community to use public land;

Whereas Latino conservation efforts can range from outdoor activities, such as hiking and kayaking, to educational activities and community gatherings;

Whereas increased access to outdoor recreation opportunities encourages Latino families and youth to engage with the outdoors and demonstrate the commitment of the Latino families and youth to conservation;

Whereas each person should have the opportunity to discover their history, culture, and heritage by exploring and experiencing the public land of the United States;

Whereas access to green spaces provides for healthier and more active lifestyles, which helps address numerous health disparity issues facing the Latino community, such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease, obesity, and cancer;

Whereas the participation of Latinos in conservation efforts can encourage the interest and involvement of Latinos in careers in conservation;

Whereas the people of the United States must ensure that the public land and natural surroundings of the United States are protected for future generations; and

Whereas access to green spaces provides for healthier and more active lifestyles, which helps address numerous health disparity issues facing the Latino community, such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease, obesity, and cancer;

Whereas the participation of Latinos in conservation efforts can encourage the interest and involvement of Latinos in careers in conservation;

Whereas the people of the United States must ensure that the public land and natural surroundings of the United States are protected for future generations; and

Whereas the members of the largest ethnic group in the United States, as the environmental stewards of tomorrow, will play a significant role in securing the future success and preservation of the public land of the United States, especially as that group continues to grow; Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate—

1. recognizes the role of Latinos in protecting and preserving the land, water, and wildlife, and workforce who, for the national security of the United States and the defense of freedom and peace, project the ground combat power of the United States by air transport to the far corners of the world;

2. supports the inclusion and meaningful engagement of Latinos in environmental protection and conservation efforts; and

3. encourages the United States to participate in ceremonies, activities, and programs that engage the community in the outdoors and bring awareness to the importance of conservation.

Senate Resolution 233—Designating August 16, 2017, as “National Airborne Day”

Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. TESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. Res. 233

Whereas the members of the airborne forces of the Armed Forces of the United States have a long and honorable history as bold and those who, for the national security of the United States and the defense of freedom and peace, project the ground combat power of the United States by air transport to the far corners of the world;

Whereas, on June 25, 1940, experiments with airborne operations by the United States began when the Army Parachute Test Platoon was first authorized by the Department of War;

Whereas, in July 1940, 40 volunteers began training for the Army Parachute Test Platoon;

Whereas August 16 marks the anniversary of the first official Army parachute jump, which took place on August 16, 1940, to test the innovative concept of inserting United States ground combat forces behind a battle line by means of a parachute;

Whereas, included in those divisions, and among other separate formations, were many airborne combat, combat support, and combat service support units that served with distinction in or have achieved success in armed hostilities during World War II;

Whereas the achievements of the airborne units for World War II paved the evolution of those units into a diversified force of parachute and air-assault units that, over the years, have fought in Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf region, and Somalia, and have engaged in peace-keeping operations in Lebanon, the Sinai Peninsula, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bosnia, and Kosovo;

Whereas, since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the members of the United States airborne forces, including members of the XVIII Airborne Corps, the 82nd Airborne Division, the 101st Airborne Division, the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) of the 4th Infantry Division, the 75th Ranger Regiment, special operations forces of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force, and other units of the Armed Forces, have demonstrated bravery and honor in combat, stability, and training operations in Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas the modern-day airborne forces also include other elite forces composed of airborne trained and qualified special operations warriors, including Army Special Forces, Marine Corps Reconnaissance units, Navy SEALs, and Air Force combat control and pararescue teams;

Whereas, of the members and former members of the United States airborne forces are all members of a proud and honorable tradition that, together with the special skills and achievements of those members, distinguishes the members as intrepid combat parachutists, air assault forces, special operation forces, and, in the past, glider troops; and

Whereas individuals from every State of the United States have served gallantly in the airborne forces, and each State is proud of the contributions of its paratrooper veterans during the many conflicts faced by the United States;

Whereas the history and achievements of the members and former members of the United States airborne forces, past and present, celebrate August 16 as the anniversary of the first official jump by the Army Parachute Test Platoon, August 16 is an appropriate day to recognize as National Airborne Day;

Whereas the members of a proud and honorable tradition that, together with the special skills and achievements of those members, distinguishes the members as intrepid combat parachutists, air assault forces, special operation forces, and, in the past, glider troops;

Resolved, That the Senate—

1. designates August 16, 2017, as “National Airborne Day”; and

2. calls on the people of the United States to observe National Airborne Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

Amendments Submitted and Proposed

SA 281. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 267 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 292. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction and military facilities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and
SA 283. Mr. Rounds submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 284. Mr. Kennedy submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 267 proposed by Mr. McConnell to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 285. Mr. Kennedy submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 267 proposed by Mr. McConnell to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 286. Mr. Kennedy submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 267 proposed by Mr. McConnell to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 287. Mr. Kennedy submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 267 proposed by Mr. McConnell to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 292. Ms. Warren (for herself, Mr. Market, Mr. Carper, Mr. Durbin, Ms. Stabenow, Ms. Hirono, Mr. Van Hollen, and Mr. Brown) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 291. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 292. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 293. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 294. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 295. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 296. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 297. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 298. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 299. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 300. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 301. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 302. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 303. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 304. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 305. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 306. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 307. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 308. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 309. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 310. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 311. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 312. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 313. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 314. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 315. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 316. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 317. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 318. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 319. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 320. Ms. Warren submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 321. Ms. Nelson submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 322. Mr. Heinrich (for himself and Mr. Udall) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 323. Mr. Heinrich (for himself and Mr. Udall) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 324. Mr. Heinrich (for himself and Mr. Udall) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 325. Mr. Heinrich (for himself and Mr. Udall) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 326. Mr. Heinrich (for himself and Mr. Udall) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 327. Mrs. Shaheen (for herself and Mr. Sasse) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 328. Mrs. Shaheen submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 329. Ms. Baldwin (for herself, Mr. Reed, Mr. Kaine, and Ms. Warren) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 330. Mr. Tillis submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 331. Mr. Coons (for himself and Mr. Blumenthal) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 332. Mr. Coons (for himself and Mr. Blumenthal) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 333. Mr. Coons (for himself, Mr. Durbin, and Mr. Blumenthal) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 334. Mr. Coons (for himself and Mr. Blumenthal) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 335. Mr. King (for himself, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Casey, Mrs. Shaheen, and Mr. Coons) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 336. Mr. King (for himself, Mr. Blumenthal, and Mrs. Shaheen) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 267 proposed by Mr. McConnell to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 337. Mr. King (for himself, Mr. Blumenthal, and Mrs. Shaheen) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 267 proposed by Mr. McConnell to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 338. Mr. King (for himself, Mr. Blumenthal, and Mrs. Shaheen) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 267 proposed by Mr. McConnell to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 339. Mr. Grassley submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 267 proposed by Mr. McConnell to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.
SA 340. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. Daines) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 267 proposed by Mr. McConnell to the bill H.R. 1628, supra.

SA 341. Mr. UDALL (for himself, Ms. Cantwell, Ms. Cortez Masto, Ms. Heitkamp, Mr. Franken, Ms. Murray, Mr. Schatz, Ms. Stabenow, Mr. Tester, and Mr. Merkley) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 342. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 343. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 344. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 345. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 346. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 347. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 348. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

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SA 350. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 351. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 352. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 353. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 354. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 355. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 356. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 357. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 358. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 359. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 360. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 361. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.
the budget for fiscal year 2017, which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, insert the following:

**SEC. 122. SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH PLANS.**

(a) **Tax Treatment of Small Business Health Plans.**—Small business health plan (as defined in section 308(a)(1) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974) shall be treated as:

(1) as a group health plan (as defined in section 2791 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-91)) for purposes of applying title 29 of the United States Code (42 U.S.C. 300gg et seq.) and title XXII of such Act (42 U.S.C. 300bb-1);


(b) **Rules.**—Subtitle B of title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1191a(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following new part:

**PART 8—RULES GOVERNING SMALL BUSINESS RISK SHARING POOLS**

**SEC. 801. SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH PLANS.**

(a) **In General.**—For purposes of this part, the term 'small business health plan' means

(1) a fully insured group health plan, offered by a health insurance issuer in the large group market; or

(2) a self-insured group health plan, whose sponsor is described in subsection (b).

(b) **Sponsor.**—The sponsor of a group health plan is described in this subsection if such sponsor—

(1) is a qualified sponsor and receives certification by the Secretary;

(2) is organized and maintained in good faith, with a constitution or bylaws specifically stating its purpose and providing for periodic meetings on at least an annual basis;

(3) is established as a permanent entity; and

(4) does not condition membership on the basis of a minimum group size.

**SEC. 802. FILING FEE AND CERTIFICATION OF SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH PLANS.**

(a) **Filing Fee.**—A small business health plan shall pay to the Secretary at the time of filing an application for certification under subsection (b) a filing fee in the amount of $5,000, which shall be available to the Secretary for the sole purpose of administering the certification procedure applicable with respect to small business health plans.

(b) **Certification.**—

(1) **In General.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this part, the Secretary shall prescribe by interim final rule a method by which the Secretary—

(A) will certify a qualified sponsor of a small business health plan, upon receipt of an application that includes the information described in paragraph (2); and

(B) may provide for continued certification of small business health plans under this part.

(2) **Sponsor.**—The Secretary shall provide for the revocation of a certification if the applicable authority finds that the small business health plan involved fails to comply with the requirements of this part.

(3) **Determination.**—The Secretary shall conduct oversight of certified plan sponsors, including periodic review, and consistent with section 504, applying the requirements of sections 519, 519, and 520; and

(E) will consult with a State with respect to a small business health plan domiciled in such State that is a public health insurance program established under section 1801 of title XIX of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396bb) for purposes of applying parts 6 and 7 of title I of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) and title XXII of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a).

(2) INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION.—An application for certification under this part must meet the requirements of this section only if it includes, in a manner and form which shall be prescribed by the applicable authority by regulation, at least the following information:

(A) identifying information.

(B) such additional information as the Secretary may by regulation require or prescribe.

(3) REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFIED PLAN SPONSORS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this part, the Secretary shall prescribe by interim final rule requirements for certified plan sponsors that include requirements relating to:

(1) structure and requirements for boards of trustees or plan administrators;

(2) notification of material changes; and

(3) notification for voluntary termination.

**SEC. 803. PARTICIPATION AND COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS.**

(a) **Covered Employers and Individuals.**—The requirements of this subsection are met with respect to a small business health plan if, under the terms of the plan—

(1) each participating employer must be—

(A) a participating sponsor; and

(B) the sponsor; or

(C) an affiliated member of the sponsor, except that, in the case of a sponsor which is a professional association or other individual-based association, if at least one of the officers, directors, or employees of an employer, or at least one of the individuals who are partners in an employer and who actively participate in the business, is a member or such an affiliated member of the sponsor, participating employers may also include such employer;

(2) a participating employer is not deemed to be a plan sponsor in applying requirements relating to coverage renewal; and

(3) the plan is a plan that is offered by a qualified sponsor under the plan after certification under this part must be—

(A) an active or retired owner (including a self-employed individual with or without employees), officer, director, or employee of, or partner in, a participating employer;

(B) an eligible individual;

(C) a dependent of an individual described in subparagraph (A) or (B).

(b) **Prohibition of Discrimination Against Eligible Individuals.**—The requirements of this subsection are met with respect to a small business health plan if—

(1) the plan does not exclude an eligible individual from participation under the plan on a basis that is discriminatory on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability;

(2) the plan does not exclude an eligible individual from participation under the plan based on a health status-related factor with respect to the employee and such employee would, but for such exclusion on such basis, be eligible for coverage under the plan; and

(3) the plan does not exclude an eligible individual from participation under the plan if the plan does not exclude such individual from participation under the plan on the basis of age or disability.

(c) **Authority.**—The term 'applicable authority' means—

(1) **Affiliated Member.**—The term 'affiliated member' means, in connection with a sponsor—

(A) a person who is otherwise eligible to be a member of the same association, but who elects an affiliated status with the sponsor, or

(B) in the case of a sponsor with members which consist of associations, a person who is a member of any employee of any such association and elects an affiliated status with the sponsor.

(2) **Applicable Authority.**—The term 'applicable authority' means—

(A) with respect to a health insurance issuer in a State, the State insurance commissioner or official or officials designated by the State to enforce the requirements of title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act for the State involved with respect to such issuer; and

(B) with respect to a group health plan, the Secretary of Labor.

(3) **Eligible Individual.**—The term 'eligible individual' means any individual who—

(A) is a member of an association described in paragraph (1); or

(B) is not employed or self-employed; or

(ii) is employed by an employer who does not offer the individual the option to enroll in an association described in paragraph (1).

(4) **Franchisee.**—The terms 'franchisor' and 'franchisee' have the meanings given such terms for purposes of sections 3(a) through 436.2(c) of title 16, Code of Federal Regulations (including any such amendments to such regulation after the date of enactment of this part) and, for purposes of this part, franchisor or franchisee shall mean the franchisor or franchisee or an affiliated member of the franchisor or franchisee for any purpose.

(5) **Health Plan Terms.**—The terms 'group health plan', 'health insurance coverage', and 'health insurance issuer' have the meanings given such terms in section 733.

(6) **Individual Market.**—The term 'individual market' means the market for health insurance coverage offered to individuals other than in connection with a group health plan.

(7) **Insurance Coverage for Very Small Groups.**—

(A) In General.**—Subject to clause (ii), each such plan includes coverage offered in connection with a group health plan that has—

(iii) 2 participating sponsors, each of whom is an employer, or employees or participants described in section 732(b)(3) on the first day of the plan year.
SA 283. Mr. RoundS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2610, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1630C. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON USE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL PERSONNEL ACT AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE PROGRAM BY PERSONNEL WITH CYBER SKILLS AND ABILITIES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Department of Defense should fully use the Intergovernmental Personnel Act Mobility Program (IPAMP) and the Department of Defense Information Technology Exchange Program (ITEP) to obtain cyber personnel across the Government by leveraging personnel strengths of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subsection (a) of section 1074(g) of title 10, United States Code, which is amended by section 407 of the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2017, and as otherwise amended and in effect on the last day of her pregnancy

SA 284. Mr. Kennedy submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. McConnell to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017, which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 1. REDUCING MEDICAID FRAUD, WASTE, HOUSING, AND OTHER IMPROPER PAYMENTS.

Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Comptroller General of the United States and representatives of State auditors, shall issue guidance to State Medicaid agencies to implement a national strategy for reducing fraud, waste, abuse, and other improper payments in Medicaid.
SA 288. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 267 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:
At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 9. SENSE OF THE SENATE. It is the Sense of the Senate that—

(1) the committee of jurisdiction of the Senate—

(A) should review the issue of Medicaid expansion and coverage for low-income Americans, and the incentives such expansion provides States for certain services;

(B) should consider legislation that provides incentives for States to prioritize Medicaid services for individuals who have the greatest medical need, including individuals with disabilities;

(C) should not consider legislation that reduces or eliminates benefits or coverage for individuals who are currently eligible for Medicaid;

(D) should not consider legislation that prevents or discourages a State from expanding its Medicaid program to include groups or individuals or types of services that are operational under current law; and

(E) should not consider legislation that shifts costs to States to cover such care;

(2) Obamacare should be repealed because it increased costs, limits patient choice of health plans and doctors, forces Americans to buy insurance that they do not want, cannot afford, or may not be able to access, increases taxes on middle class families, which is evidenced by the facts that—

(A) premiums for health plans offered on the Federal Exchange have doubled on average over the last 4 years, and those increases are projected to continue;

(B) 70 percent of counties have only a few options for Obamacare insurance in 2017, and at least 40 counties are expected to have zero insurers planning on their Exchange for 2018;

(C) 2,300,000 Americans on the Exchange are projected to have only one insurer to choose from for plan year 2018; and

(D) the Joint Committee on Taxation has identified significant and widespread tax increases on individuals earning less than $200,000; and

(3) Obamacare should be replaced with patient-centered legislation that—

(A) provides access to quality, affordable private health care coverage for Americans and their families by increasing competition, State flexibility, and individual choice; and

(B) strengthens Medicaid and empowers States through increased flexibility to best meet the needs of each State’s population.

SA 289. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 267 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 10. NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.

The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would harm individuals with Alzheimer’s disease by increasing their premiums or cutting Federal Medicaid funding that supports those in nursing homes, shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 293. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017 which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:
At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 11. NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.

The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would harm individuals with Alzheimer’s disease by increasing their premiums or cutting Federal Medicaid funding that supports those in nursing homes, shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 294. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017 which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:
At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 12. NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.

The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would harm babies born prematurely by cutting Federal Medicaid funding, shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 295. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017 which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:
At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 13. NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.

The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would harm babies born prematurely by cutting Federal Medicaid funding, shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 296. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017 which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:
At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 14. NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.

The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would harm babies born prematurely by cutting Federal Medicaid funding, shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.
her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. __ NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.
The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would make it harder for a pregnant woman to access health care, shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 297. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. __ NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.
The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would make it harder for a person with cervical cancer to access health care, shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 298. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. __ NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.
The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would make it harder for a victim of sexual violence to access health care, shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 299. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. __ NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.
The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would make it harder for a pregnant woman to access health care, shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 300. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. __ NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.
The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would make it harder for a pregnant woman to access health care, shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 301. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. __ NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.
The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would make it harder for a person with breast cancer to access health care, shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 302. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. __ NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.
The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would make it harder for a pregnant woman to access health care, shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 303. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. __ NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.
The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would make it harder for a pregnant woman to access health care, shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 304. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. __ NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.
The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would make it harder for a pregnant woman to access health care, shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 305. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. __ NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.
The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would make it harder for a pregnant woman to access health care, shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 306. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. __ NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.
The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would make it harder for a pregnant woman to access health care, shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 307. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. __ NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.
The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would make it harder for a pregnant woman to access health care, shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 308. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. __ NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.
The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would make it harder for a pregnant woman to access health care, shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 309. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by
her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 5. NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.

The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would threaten to make health insurance unavailable for people seeking mental health care shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 310. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 6. NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.

The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would threaten to make health insurance unavailable for veterans shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 311. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 7. NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.

The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would threaten to make health insurance unavailable for people over the age of 50 shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 312. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 8. NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.

The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would threaten to make health insurance unavailable for people with brain cancer shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 313. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 9. NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.

The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would threaten to make health insurance unavailable for people with diabetes shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 314. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 10. NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.

The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would threaten to make health insurance unavailable for veterans shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 315. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 11. NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.

The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would threaten to make health insurance unavailable for people with ALS shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 316. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 12. NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.

The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would threaten to make health insurance unavailable for people with multiple sclerosis shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 317. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 13. NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.

The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would threaten to make health insurance unavailable for people with prostate cancer shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 318. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 14. NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.

The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would threaten to make health insurance unavailable for people receiving Social Security benefits, including SSI and SSDI shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 319. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 15. NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.

The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would threaten to make health insurance unavailable for people with heart disease shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 320. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 16. NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.

The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would threaten to make health insurance unavailable for people with prostate cancer shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 321. Mr. NELSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 17. HEALTHCARE FRAUD REMOVAL.

(a) 10-YEAR PROHIBITION ON DEDUCTION OF TRADERS OR BUSINESS EXPENSES FOR BUSINESSES ENGAGED IN FRAUD OR ILLEGAL TRANSACTIONS.—Subsection (c) of section 162 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

(1) 10-YEAR PROHIBITION ON DEDUCTION OF TRADERS OR BUSINESS EXPENSES.—In the case of a taxpayer subject to a criminal penalty for
engaging in fraud, an illegal bribe or kickback, or any other illegal transaction (as such term is defined by the Secretary) under any law of the United States, or under any law of any state (as such term is defined in the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act and as such term is generally enforced), no deduction shall be allowed under subsection (a) for any taxable year during the 1-year period subsequent to the date on which such criminal penalty was imposed.’’.

(b) Health Care Fraud Penalties.—Section 19747(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ‘‘10 years’’ and inserting ‘‘15 years’’;

(2) by striking ‘‘20 years’’ and inserting ‘‘25 years’’;

(c) Establishment of Health Care Fraud Excise Tax.—

(1) Health Care Fraud Excise Tax.—

(A) In General.—Subchapter C of chapter 100 of subtitle K of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**SEC. 8853. Health Care Fraud Excise Tax.**

‘‘(a) In General.—In the case of any payment relating to health care benefits, items, or services which is made by health insurance issuer (as defined in section 9832(c)(2)) to a person engaged in a violation of section 19747(a) of title 18, United States Code, there is hereby imposed a tax equal to 20 percent of such payment.

‘‘(b) Clerical Amendment.—The table of sections for such subchapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

‘‘Sec. 8853. Health care fraud excise tax.’’

‘‘(c) Effective Date.—The amendments made by this paragraph shall apply to payments made after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) Health Care Fraud Trust Fund.—

(A) In General.—Subchapter A of chapter 98 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**SEC. 8912. Health Care Fraud Trust Fund.**

‘‘(a) Creation of Trust Fund.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund to be known as the ‘Health Care Fraud Trust Fund’, consisting of—

(1) amounts appropriated or credited to the Trust Fund as provided in this section or section 9620(b).

(2) amounts appropriated or credited to the Trust Fund as provided in this section or section 9620(b).

(b) Transfers to Trust Fund.—There is hereby appropriated to the Health Care Fraud Trust Fund amounts equivalent to the revenues received in the Treasury from the tax imposed by section 8913.

‘‘(c) Expenditures.—Amounts in the Health Care Fraud Trust Fund shall be available, without further appropriation, to the Secretary of Health and Human Services for providing grants to—

(1) local law enforcement authorities for health care fraud prevention efforts, with priority given to authorities operating in areas experiencing high rates of health care fraud or drug abuse,

(2) qualified drug addiction treatment centers,

(3) Definitions.—

(1) Local Law Enforcement Authority.—The term ‘local law enforcement authority’ means any law enforcement agency legally organized under a political subdivision of a state or possession of the United States.

SA 322. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . POINT OF ORDER AGAINST LEGISLATION THAT WOULD DECREASE MEDICAL CHIP ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN.

(a) Point of Order.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that, as determined by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, would result in a decrease in the number of children enrolled in Medicaid under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) or the Children’s Health Insurance Program under title XXI of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.).

(b) Waiver and Appeal.—Subsection (a) may be waived by the Majority Leader on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

SEC. . POINT OF ORDER AGAINST LEGISLATION THAT WOULD AFFECT ADVERSELY IMPACT UNINSURED INDIVIDUALS IN RURAL AREAS.

(a) Point of Order.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that would result in an increase in the rate of uninsured individuals in rural areas, including members of Medicaid enrolment or a reduction in the scope of Medicaid benefits offered in rural areas, reduced wages or a shortage of employment opportunities in the health care profession for prospective health care providers, including hospitals, clinics, and community health centers.

(b) Waiver and Appeal.—Subsection (a) may be waived by the Majority Leader on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

SA 323. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . POINT OF ORDER AGAINST LEGISLATION THAT WOULD AFFECT ADVERSELY IMPACT UNINSURED INDIVIDUALS IN RURAL AREAS.

(a) Point of Order.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that, as determined by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, would result in an increase in the rate of uninsured individuals in rural areas, including members of Medicaid enrolment or a reduction in the scope of Medicaid benefits offered in rural areas, reduced wages or a shortage of employment opportunities in the health care profession for prospective health care providers, including hospitals, clinics, and community health centers.

(b) Waiver and Appeal.—Subsection (a) may be waived by the Majority Leader on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

SA 324. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. Udall) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2310, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 3116. Plutonium Capabilities.**

(a) Report.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator for Nuclear Security shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, and the Senate Committee on the Budget a report on the recommended alternative endorsed by the Administrator for recapitalization of plutonium science and production capabilities in the nuclear sector. The report shall identify the recommended alternative endorsed by the Administrator and contain the analysis of alternatives, including the costs, upon which the Administrator relied in making such endorsement.

(b) Certification.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary of Defense receives the report under subsection (a), the Chairman of the Nuclear Weapons Council shall submit to the congressional defense committees the written certification of the Chairman regarding whether the recommended alternative endorsed by the Administrator—

(1) is acceptable to the Secretary of Defense and the Nuclear Weapons Council and meets the requirements of the Secretary for plutonium pit production capacity and capability;

(2) is likely to meet the pit production timelines and milestones required by section 4219 of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2538a); and

(3) is likely to meet production timelines and requirements responsive to military requirements;

(4) is cost effective and has reasonable near-term and lifecycle costs that are minimized, to the extent practicable, as compared to other alternatives, and has tested and documented the cost estimates for each alternative to risks and changes in key assumptions;

(5) contains minimized and manageable risks as compared to other alternatives;

(6) can be accepted and reconciled with any differences in the conclusions made by the Office of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation of the Department of Defense in the business case analysis of plutonium pit production capability issued in 2013; and

(7) has documented the assumptions and constraints used in the analysis of alternatives.

(c) Failure to Certify.—If the Chairman is unable to submit the certification under subsection (b), the Chairman shall submit to the congressional defense committees the written notification describing why the Chairman is unable to make such certification.

(d) Assessment.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation receives the notification under subsection (a), the Director shall provide to the congressional defense committees a briefing containing the assessment by the Director of the analysis of alternatives conducted by the Administrator to select a preferred alternative for recapitalizing plutonium science and production capabilities.

SA 325. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. Udall) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2310, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:
At the end of subtitle E of title X, add the following:

SEC. 40. AIR FORCE PILOT PROGRAM ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF AIR FORCE SECONDARY AND POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS AS AIRCRAFT TECHNICIANS.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM.—(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Air Force shall carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of—

(A) utilizing this training to secondary and post-secondary students in the skills and qualifications required to lead to certification as an aircraft technician for the Air Force at skill levels 3-5; and

(B) certifying individuals who successfully complete education and training under the pilot program as aircraft technicians for the Air Force at skill levels 3-5.

(2) DESIGNATION.—The pilot program carried out pursuant to this section may be known as the “Air Force Dual Credit Maintainers Program” (in this section, referred to as the “pilot program”).

(b) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.—Individually eligible to participate in the pilot program are individuals in secondary or post-secondary school who—

(1) have education, skills, or both appropriate for post-secondary education and training leading to certification as an aircraft technician of the Air Force; and

(2) seek to pursue education and training under the pilot program in order to become certified as aircraft technicians of the Air Force.

(c) SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program through secondary schools and institutions of higher education selected by the Secretary for purposes of the pilot program.

(2) LOCATIONS.—The secondary schools and institutions of higher education selected pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be located in the vicinity of air installations of the Air Force at which there is, or is anticipated to be, a shortfall in air force aircraft technicians with skill levels 3-5;

(B) have education, skills, or both, appropriate for the education and training leading to certification as an aircraft technician of the Air Force; and

(C) be located in the vicinity of institutions of higher education selected pursuant to paragraph (1).”

 subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 307. SYRIA STUDY GROUP.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established a working group to be known as the “Syria Study Group” (in this section referred to as the “Group”).

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Group is to examine and make recommendations with respect to the military and diplomatic strategy of the United States with respect to the conflict in Syria.

(c) COMPOSITION.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—The Group shall be composed of 8 members appointed as follows:

(A) One member appointed by the chair of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

(B) One member appointed by the ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

(C) One member appointed by the chair of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(D) One member appointed by the ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(E) One member appointed by the chair of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(F) One member appointed by the ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(G) One member appointed by the chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(H) One member appointed by the ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) CO-CHAIRS.—

(A) The chair of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate shall designate one member of the Group to serve as co-chair of the Group.

(B) The ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate shall designate one member of the Group to serve as co-chair of the Group.

(C) The chair of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate shall designate one member of the Group to serve as co-chair of the Group.

(D) The ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate shall designate one member of the Group to serve as co-chair of the Group.

(E) The chair of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives shall designate one member of the Group to serve as co-chair of the Group.

(F) The ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives shall designate one member of the Group to serve as co-chair of the Group.

(G) The chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives shall designate one member of the Group to serve as co-chair of the Group.

(H) The ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives shall designate one member of the Group to serve as co-chair of the Group.

(i) no payment may be made under this section to a state (as defined in section 1605 of title 28) by a foreign state that is holding the payment as security in an action against a state (as defined in section 1605(a)(3) of title 28).
(3) Period of appointment; vacancies.—Members shall be appointed for the life of the Group. Any vacancy in the Group shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(d) Duties.—

(1) Review.—The Group shall review the current situation with respect to the United States military and diplomatic strategy in Syria, including a review of current United States objectives in Syria and the desired end state in Syria.

(2) Assessment and recommendations.—The Group shall—

(A) conduct a comprehensive assessment of the current situation in Syria, its impact on neighboring countries, resulting regional and geopolitical threats to the United States, and current military, diplomatic, and political conditions in Syria;

(B) develop recommendations on a military and diplomatic strategy for the United States with respect to the conflict in Syria.

(e) Cooperation from United States government.—

(1) In general.—The Group shall receive the full and timely cooperation of the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of National Intelligence in providing the Group with analyses, briefings, and other information necessary for the discharge of the duties of the Group.

(2) Liaison.—The Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of National Intelligence shall each designate at least one officer or employee of their respective organizations to serve as a liaison officer to the Group.

(f) Report.—

(1) Final report.—Not later than September 30, 2018, the Group shall submit to the President, the Secretary of Defense, the Commander of United States Central Command, the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Group under this section. The report shall do each of the following:

(A) Assess the current security, political, humanitarian, and economic situation in Syria.

(B) Assess the current participation and objectives of various external actors in Syria.

(C) Assess the consequences of continued conflict in Syria.

(D) Provide recommendations for a diplomatic resolution of the conflict in Syria, including options for a gradual political transition to a post-Assad Syria and actions necessary for reconciliation.

(E) Provide a roadmap for a United States and coalition strategy to reestablish security and governance in Syria, including recommendations for the synchronization of stabilization, development, counterterrorism, and reconstruction efforts.

(F) Address matters with respect to the conflict in Syria that the Group considers appropriate.

(2) Interim briefing.—Not later than June 30, 2018, the Group shall provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a briefing on the situation in Syria under subsection (d), together with a discussion of any interim recommendations developed by the Group as of the date of the briefing.

(g) Form of report.—The report submitted to Congress under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(h) Facilitation.—The United States Institute of Peace shall take appropriate actions to facilitate the Group in the discharge of its duties under this section.

(i) Termination.—The Group shall terminate six months after the date on which it submits the report required by subsection (f)(1).

(j) Funding.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2018 for the Department of Defense by this Act, $1,500,000 is available to fund the activities of the Group.

SA 328. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, the Department of the Air Force, the Department of Energy, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. __. FOREIGN AGENTS REGISTRATION.

(a) Short title.—This section may be cited as the "Foreign Registration Modernization and Enforcement Act".

(b) Civil investigative demand authority.—The Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C. 611 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 as sections 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after section 7 (2 U.S.C. 617) the following:

"'CIVIL INVESTIGATIVE DEMAND AUTHORITY'

'"SEC. 8. (a) Whenever the Attorney General has reason to believe that any person or entity has failed to register in accordance with the provision of law applicable to such violation:

'(1) the Attorney General may request any Federal agency to conduct the investigation under its statutory authority to do so; and

'(2) the Attorney General may authorize a Federal agent to issue a demand pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C. 611 et seq.), as amended by this Act, for information required to be produced under this Act, and for information required to be produced under any other law of the United States, if the Attorney General reasonably determines that such information is relevant to an investigation conducted under this Act.

'(b) The Attorney General shall—

'(1) establish and collect a registration fee for each request for information; and

'(2) credit such fees to the amount appropriated under this Act for the current fiscal year, but shall collect such fees only if the Attorney General determines that the request for information is reasonable and necessary to conduct the investigation under this Act.'"

(c) Definitions.—Section 1 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 611), is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (a) as subsection (b), and

(B) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

'"SEC. 15. The Attorney General shall—

'(1) establish and collect a registration fee for each request for information; and

'(2) credit such fees to the amount appropriated under this Act for the current fiscal year, but shall collect such fees only if the Attorney General determines that the request for information is reasonable and necessary to conduct the investigation under this Act.'"

(d) Fees.—

(1) Repeal.—The Department of Justice and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002, as amended, is amended by inserting after section 157 the following:

'"Fees

'SEC. 157. The Attorney General shall—

'(1) establish and collect a registration fee for each request for information; and

'(2) credit such fees to the amount appropriated under this Act for the current fiscal year, but shall collect such fees only if the Attorney General determines that the request for information is reasonable and necessary to conduct the investigation under this Act.'"

(e) Reports to Congress.—Section 12 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, is amended by redesignating subsection (b)(1), as amended to read as follows:

'(1) contains any requirement that would

'(2) describe the class or classes of docu

'(3) state the nature of the conduct constit

'(4) identify the custodian to whom such ma

'(5) contain any requirement that would

'(6) contain any requirement that would

'(7) contain any requirement that would

'(8) contain any requirement that would

'(9) contain any requirement that would
SA 329. Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. REED, Mr. KAIN, and Ms. WARREN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2610, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title VIII, add following:

SEC. 10001. SUPPORT OF AMERICA'S DEFENSE WORKERS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Supporting America’s Defense Workers Act.”

(b) AMENDMENT TO PHASEOUT DETERMINATION.—(1) In section 45R(h)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the number of such investigations that was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

(h) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act, shall ensure that the provisions of title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017, which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 10002. LEVEL OF COVERAGE.

A State grant a waiver with respect to essential health benefits coverage under section 1332 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18052), as amended by this Act, shall ensure that new essential health benefits provided under the waiver provide at least a level of coverage that is comparable to the essential health coverage provided to Members of Congress.

SA 333. Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 267 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017, which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 10004. NOTICE REQUIREMENT.

The President shall notify in writing any individual who receives a cut in health care benefits, lower quality health insurance, or loses health insurance altogether that these changes are the result of this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

SA 335. Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017, which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 10005. MATERNAL, INFANT, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISITING PROGRAMS.

Section 511(j)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 711(j)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (G), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

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

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

“(i) for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2027, $400,000,000.”;

SA 336. Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be
proposed to amendment SA 267 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ... REDUCING INFANT MORTALITY.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall implement programs to protect, preserve, maintain, sustain, and expand all programs related to addressing, identifying the cause of, and reducing infant mortality.

SA 337. Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 267 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ... NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.

There are authorized to be appropriated, and there are appropriated, for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2028, $400,000,000 to carry out the National Health Service Corps program under subpart II of part D of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254d et seq.) and the scholarship program and loan repayment program under subpart III of part D of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e et seq.).

SA 338. Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 267 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 201.

SA 339. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 267 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ... PRESERVATION OF RIGHT TO MAINTAIN EXISTING COVERAGE.

(a) In General.—Section 1281 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18011) is amended:

(1) In subsection (e), by inserting “other than a plan or coverage described in subsection (f)’’ before the period; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(f) Preservation of Existing Options.—In the case of a group health plan or health insurance coverage in existence on or after January 1, 2018, other than a plan or coverage offered on an exchange established pursuant to this Act) offered to the members of an agricultural organization exempt from the tax under section 501(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, in existence since 1918, that has been pro-
(c) No Cost-Sharing.—No deductibles, co-payments, coinsurance, or other cost-sharing shall be imposed with respect to covered benefits.

SEC. 103. QUALIFICATION OF PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS.
(a) Requirement To Be Public or Non-Profit.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—No institution may be a participating provider unless it is a public or non-profit institution. Private physicians, private clinics, and private health care providers shall continue to operate as private entities, but are prohibited from being providers of care.

(b) Conversion of Investor-Owned Providers.—For-profit providers of care converting to not-for-profit status shall continue to operate as private entities, but are prohibited from being providers of care.

(c) Compensation for Conversion.—The owners of such for-profit providers shall be compensated for reasonable financial losses incurred as a result of the conversion from for-profit to non-profit status.

(d) Authorization to Be Appointed.—Private practitioners shall be appointed to serve on boards of health care delivery organizations.

SEC. 201. BUDGETING PROCESS.
(a) Establishment of Operating Budget and Capital Expenditures Budget.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this Act there shall be established on an annual basis a budget for the Medicare For All Program, including guidelines relating to participation under such program, including guidelines regarding safe staffing and quality of care.

(b) Requirements.—The payments to owners of converting non-profit providers shall occur during a 15-year period, through the sale of U.S. Treasury bonds. Payment for conversions under paragraph (3) shall not be made for loss of business profits.

(c) Special Standards.—The Secretary shall promulgate a rule to provide a mechanism to further the timely, efficient, and feasible conversion of for-profit providers of care.

(d) Requirements.—The payments to owners of converting for-profit providers shall occur during a 15-year period, through the sale of U.S. Treasury bonds. Payment for conversions under paragraph (3) shall not be made for loss of business profits.

(e) Capital Expenditures.—The Secretary shall promulgate a rule to provide a mechanism to further the timely, efficient, and feasible conversion of for-profit providers of care.

(f) Requirements.—The payments to owners of converting for-profit providers shall occur during a 15-year period, through the sale of U.S. Treasury bonds. Payment for conversions under paragraph (3) shall not be made for loss of business profits.

(g) Special Standards.—The Secretary shall promulgate a rule to provide a mechanism to further the timely, efficient, and feasible conversion of for-profit providers of care.

(f) Requirements.—The payments to owners of converting for-profit providers shall occur during a 15-year period, through the sale of U.S. Treasury bonds. Payment for conversions under paragraph (3) shall not be made for loss of business profits.

(g) Special Standards.—The Secretary shall promulgate a rule to provide a mechanism to further the timely, efficient, and feasible conversion of for-profit providers of care.

(h) Requirements.—The payments to owners of converting for-profit providers shall occur during a 15-year period, through the sale of U.S. Treasury bonds. Payment for conversions under paragraph (3) shall not be made for loss of business profits.

(i) Special Standards.—The Secretary shall promulgate a rule to provide a mechanism to further the timely, efficient, and feasible conversion of for-profit providers of care.

(j) Requirements.—The payments to owners of converting for-profit providers shall occur during a 15-year period, through the sale of U.S. Treasury bonds. Payment for conversions under paragraph (3) shall not be made for loss of business profits.

(k) Special Standards.—The Secretary shall promulgate a rule to provide a mechanism to further the timely, efficient, and feasible conversion of for-profit providers of care.

(l) Requirements.—The payments to owners of converting for-profit providers shall occur during a 15-year period, through the sale of U.S. Treasury bonds. Payment for conversions under paragraph (3) shall not be made for loss of business profits.

(m) Special Standards.—The Secretary shall promulgate a rule to provide a mechanism to further the timely, efficient, and feasible conversion of for-profit providers of care.

(n) Requirements.—The payments to owners of converting for-profit providers shall occur during a 15-year period, through the sale of U.S. Treasury bonds. Payment for conversions under paragraph (3) shall not be made for loss of business profits.

(o) Special Standards.—The Secretary shall promulgate a rule to provide a mechanism to further the timely, efficient, and feasible conversion of for-profit providers of care.

(p) Requirements.—The payments to owners of converting for-profit providers shall occur during a 15-year period, through the sale of U.S. Treasury bonds. Payment for conversions under paragraph (3) shall not be made for loss of business profits.

(q) Special Standards.—The Secretary shall promulgate a rule to provide a mechanism to further the timely, efficient, and feasible conversion of for-profit providers of care.

(r) Requirements.—The payments to owners of converting for-profit providers shall occur during a 15-year period, through the sale of U.S. Treasury bonds. Payment for conversions under paragraph (3) shall not be made for loss of business profits.

(s) Special Standards.—The Secretary shall promulgate a rule to provide a mechanism to further the timely, efficient, and feasible conversion of for-profit providers of care.

(t) Requirements.—The payments to owners of converting for-profit providers shall occur during a 15-year period, through the sale of U.S. Treasury bonds. Payment for conversions under paragraph (3) shall not be made for loss of business profits.

(u) Special Standards.—The Secretary shall promulgate a rule to provide a mechanism to further the timely, efficient, and feasible conversion of for-profit providers of care.

(v) Requirements.—The payments to owners of converting for-profit providers shall occur during a 15-year period, through the sale of U.S. Treasury bonds. Payment for conversions under paragraph (3) shall not be made for loss of business profits.

(w) Special Standards.—The Secretary shall promulgate a rule to provide a mechanism to further the timely, efficient, and feasible conversion of for-profit providers of care.

(x) Requirements.—The payments to owners of converting for-profit providers shall occur during a 15-year period, through the sale of U.S. Treasury bonds. Payment for conversions under paragraph (3) shall not be made for loss of business profits.

(y) Special Standards.—The Secretary shall promulgate a rule to provide a mechanism to further the timely, efficient, and feasible conversion of for-profit providers of care.

(z) Requirements.—The payments to owners of converting for-profit providers shall occur during a 15-year period, through the sale of U.S. Treasury bonds. Payment for conversions under paragraph (3) shall not be made for loss of business profits.

(aa) Special Standards.—The Secretary shall promulgate a rule to provide a mechanism to further the timely, efficient, and feasible conversion of for-profit providers of care.

(bb) Requirements.—The payments to owners of converting for-profit providers shall occur during a 15-year period, through the sale of U.S. Treasury bonds. Payment for conversions under paragraph (3) shall not be made for loss of business profits.

(cc) Special Standards.—The Secretary shall promulgate a rule to provide a mechanism to further the timely, efficient, and feasible conversion of for-profit providers of care.

(dd) Requirements.—The payments to owners of converting for-profit providers shall occur during a 15-year period, through the sale of U.S. Treasury bonds. Payment for conversions under paragraph (3) shall not be made for loss of business profits.

(ee) Special Standards.—The Secretary shall promulgate a rule to provide a mechanism to further the timely, efficient, and feasible conversion of for-profit providers of care.

(ff) Requirements.—The payments to owners of converting for-profit providers shall occur during a 15-year period, through the sale of U.S. Treasury bonds. Payment for conversions under paragraph (3) shall not be made for loss of business profits.

(ww) Special Standards.—The Secretary shall promulgate a rule to provide a mechanism to further the timely, efficient, and feasible conversion of for-profit providers of care.

(nn) Requirements.—The payments to owners of converting for-profit providers shall occur during a 15-year period, through the sale of U.S. Treasury bonds. Payment for conversions under paragraph (3) shall not be made for loss of business profits.

(oo) Special Standards.—The Secretary shall promulgate a rule to provide a mechanism to further the timely, efficient, and feasible conversion of for-profit providers of care.
inpatient and institutional care shall be excluded from capitation payments, and shall be covered under institutions' global budgets.

(C) Prohibition of selective enrollment.—Patients shall be permitted to enroll or disenroll from such organizations or entities without discrimination and with appropriate notice.

(D) Health maintenance organizations.—Under this Act:

(i) health maintenance organizations shall be required to reimburse physicians based on a salary; and

(ii) financial incentives between such organizations and physicians based on utilization are prohibited.

SEC. 203. PAYMENT FOR LONG-TERM CARE.

(a) Allotment for regions.—The program shall provide for each region a single budgetary allotment to cover a full array of long-term care services under this Act.

(b) Regional budgets.—Each region shall provide a global budget to local long-term care providers for the full range of needed services, including in-home, nursing home, and community-based care.

(c) Basis for budgets.—Budgets for long-term care services under this section shall be based on past expenditures, financial and clinical claims for service, utilization, and projected changes in service, wages, and other related factors.

(d) Favoring non-Institutional Care.—All efforts under this Act shall be made to ensure that Medicare For All Program off-site care is delivered to the patient in a manner that maximizes community-based care, as opposed to institutional care.

SEC. 204. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) In general.—The Program shall provide coverage for all medically necessary mental health care on the same basis as the coverage provided for other conditions. Licensed mental health clinicians shall be paid in the same manner as specified for other health professionals, as provided for in section 202(b).

(b) Favoring Community-Based Care.—The Medicare For All Program shall cover support services, occupational therapy, and ongoing mental health and counseling services outside the hospital for patients with serious mental illnesses. In all cases the highest quality and most effective care shall be delivered, and, for some individuals, this may mean institutional care.

SEC. 205. PAYOUT FOR PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, AND MEDICALLY NECESSARY ASSISTIVE EQUIPMENT.

(a) Negotiated prices.—The prices to be paid each year under this Act for covered pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, and medically necessary assistive equipment shall be negotiated annually by the Program.

(b) Prescription drug formulary.—

(1) in general.—The Program shall establish a prescription drug formulary system, which shall encourage best-practices in prescribing and discourage the use of ineffective, dangerous, or excessively costly medications. The formulary should be updated frequently and clinicians and patients may petition their region or the Director to add new pharmaceuticals or to remove ineffective or dangerous medications from the formulary.

(2) Promotion of use of generics.—The formulary shall promote the use of generic medications but allow the use of brand-name and off-formulary medications.

(3) Formulary updates and petition rights.—The formulary shall be updated frequently and clinicians and patients may petition their region or the Director to add new pharmaceuticals or to remove ineffective or dangerous medications from the formulary.

SEC. 206. CONSULTATION IN ESTABLISHING REIMBURSEMENT LEVELS.

Reimbursement levels under this subtitle shall be set after close consultation with regional and State Directors and after the annual meeting of National Board of Universal Quality and Access.

Subtitle B—Funding

SEC. 211. OVERVIEW; FUNDING THE MEDICARE FOR ALL PROGRAM.

(a) In general.—The Medicare For All Program is to be funded as provided in subsection (c).

(b) Medicare for All Trust Fund.—There shall be established a Medicare For All Trust Fund in which funds provided under this section are deposited and from which expenditures under this Act are made.

(c) Funding.

(1) in general.—There are appropriated to the Medicare For All Trust Fund amounts sufficient to carry out this Act from the following sources:

(A) Existing sources of Federal Government revenues for health care.

(B) Increasing personal income taxes on the top 5 percent income earners.

(C) Instituting a modest and progressive excise tax on payroll and self-employment income.

(D) Instituting a modest tax on unearned income.

(E) Instituting a small tax on stock and bond transactions.

(2) System savings as a source of financing.—Funding otherwise required for the Program is reduced as a result of—

(A) substantially increased contributions from employers and employees;

(B) requiring a rational bulk procurement of medications under section 205(a); and

(C) improved access to preventive health care.

(3) ADDITIONAL ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS TO MEDICARE FOR ALL PROGRAM.—Additional sums are authorized to be appropriated annually through the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act, under the Medicaid program under title XIX of such Act, and under the Children's Health Insurance Program under title XXI of such Act.

Title III—Administration

SEC. 301. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION; APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR.

(a) In general.—Except as otherwise specifically provided, this Act shall be administered by the Secretary through a Director appointed by the Secretary.

(b) Long-Term Care.—The Director shall appoint for long-term care who shall be responsible for administration of this Act and ensuring the availability and accessibility of high quality long-term care services.

(c) Mental Health.—The Director shall appoint for mental health who shall be responsible for administration of this Act and ensuring the availability and accessibility of high quality mental health services.

SEC. 302. OFFICE OF QUALITY CONTROL.

The Director shall appoint a director for an Office of Quality Control. Such director shall, after consultation with State and regional directors, provide annual recommendations to the President, the Secretary, and other Program officials on how to ensure the highest quality health care service delivery. The director of the Office of Quality Control shall conduct an annual review on the adequacy of medically necessary services, and shall make recommendations of any proposed changes to the Congress, the President, the Secretary, and other Medicare For All Program officials.

SEC. 303. REGIONAL AND STATE ADMINISTRATION; EMPLOYMENT OF DISPLACED CLERICAL WORKERS.

(a) Establishment of Medicare for All Program Regional Offices.—The Secretary shall establish and maintain Medicare For All regional offices for the purpose of distributing funds to provide for all care. Whenever possible, the Secretary should incorporate pre-existing Medicare infrastructure for this purpose.

(b) Appointment of Regional and State Directors.—In each such regional office there shall be—

(1) one regional director appointed by the Director; and

(2) for each State in the region, a deputy director (in this Act referred to as a “State Director”) appointed by the governor of that State.

(c) Regional Office Duties.—Regional offices of the Program shall be responsible for—

(1) coordinating funding to health care providers and physicians; and

(2) coordinating billing and reimbursement with physicians and health care providers through a State-based reimbursement system.

(d) State Director's Duties.—Each State Director shall be responsible for the following duties:

(1) Providing an annual State health care needs assessment report to the National Board for Universal Quality and Access, and the regional board, after a thorough examination of health needs, in consultation with public health officials, clinicians, patients, and patient advocates.

(2) Health planning, including oversight of the placement of new hospitals, clinics, and other health care delivery facilities.

(3) Health planning, including oversight of the purchase and placement of new health equipment to ensure timely access to care and to avoid duplication.

(4) Setting global budgets to the regional director.

(5) Recommending changes in provider reimbursement or payment for delivery of health services in the State.

(6) Establishing a quality assurance mechanism in the State in order to minimize both under utilization and over utilization and to assure that all providers meet high quality standards.

(7) Reviewing program disbursements on a quarterly basis and recommending needed adjustments in fee schedules needed to achieve budgetary targets and assure adequate access to needed care.

SEC. 304. TRAINING AND JOB PLACEMENT; 2 YEARS OF SALARY PARITY BENEFITS.—The Program shall provide that clerical, administrative, and billing personnel in insurance companies, doctors offices, hospitals, nursing facilities, and other facilities whose jobs are eliminated due to reduced admissions shall have first priority in retraining and job placement in the new system.

(2) shall be eligible to receive two years of Medicare For All employment transition benefits with each year's benefit equal to the salary earned during the last 12 months of employment, but shall not exceed $100,000 per year.

(c) Establishment of Medicare For All Employment Transition Fund.—The Secretary shall establish a trust fund from
which expenditures shall be made to recipients of the benefits allocated in subsection (e).

(g) ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS TO MEDICARE FOR ALL NATIONAL TRANSITION FUND.—Sums are authorized to be appropriated annually as needed to fund the Medicare For All Employment Transition Benefits.

(b) Assignment of Federal and State unemployment benefits.

SEC. 304. CONFIDENTIAL ELECTRONIC PATIENT RECORD SYSTEM.

(a) In General.—The Secretary shall create a standardized, confidential electronic patient record system in accordance with laws and regulations to maintain accurate patient records and to simplify the billing process, thereby reducing medical errors and bureaucracy.

(b) Patient Option.—Notwithstanding that all billing shall be preformed electronically, patients shall have the option of keeping any portion of their medical records separate from their electronic medical record.

SEC. 305. NATIONAL BOARD OF UNIVERSAL QUALITY OF CARE.

(a) Establishment.—

(1) In general.—There is established a National Board of Universal Quality and Access (in this section referred to as the “Board”) consisting of 15 members appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(2) Qualifications.—The appointed members of the Board shall include at least one of the following:

(A) Health care professionals.

(B) Representatives of institutional providers of health care.

(C) Representatives of health care advocacy groups.

(D) Representatives of labor unions.

(E) Citizen patient advocates.

(3) Terms.—Each member shall be appointed for a term of 6 years, except that the President shall stagger the terms of members initially appointed so that the term of no more than 3 members expires in any year.

(4) Conflicts and Interests.—No member of the Board shall have a financial conflict of interest with the duties of the Board before the Board.

(b) Duties.—

(1) In General.—The Board shall meet at least twice per year and shall advise the Secretary, the Director, Congress, and the President.

(c) Compensation, etc.—The following provisions of section 1805 of the Social Security Act shall apply to the Board in the same manner as they apply to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission except that any reference to the Commission or the Comptroller General shall be treated as references to the Board and the Secretary, respectively.

(1) Subsection (c)(4) (relating to compensation of Board members).

(2) Subsection (c)(5) (relating to chairman and vice chairman).

(3) Subsection (c)(6) (relating to meetings).

(4) Subsection (d) (relating to director and staff; experts and consultants).

(b) Public Health and Prevention.

It is the intent of this Act that the Program at all times stress the importance of good public health through the prevention of disease.

SEC. 402. PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENTION.

It is the intent of this Act to reduce health disparities by race, ethnicity, income and geographic region, and to provide high quality, cost-effective, culturally appropriate care to all individuals regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or language.

TITLE V—ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. TREATMENT OF VA AND IHS HEALTH PROGRAMS.

(a) VA Health Programs.—This Act provides for health programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs to initially remain independent for the 10-year period that begins on the date of the establishment of the Medicare For All Program.

(b) Indian Health Service Programs.—This Act provides for health programs of the Indian Health Service to initially remain independent for the 5-year period that begins on the date of the establishment of the Medicare For All Program, after which such programs shall be integrated into the Medicare For All Program.

SEC. 402. REDUCTION IN HEALTH DISPARITIES.

It is the intent of this Act to reduce health disparities by race, ethnicity, income and geographic region, and to provide high quality, cost-effective, culturally appropriate care to all individuals regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or language.
SA 345. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 129, strike lines 3 through 10 and insert the following:

SEC. 221. SUPPORT FOR STATE RESPONSE TO CANCER.

There is authorized to be appropriated, and is appropriated, out of monies in the Treasury not otherwise obligated, $10,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide grants to States to support treatment of adults with cancer. Funds appropriated under this section shall remain available until expended.

SA 354. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 129, strike lines 3 through 10 and insert the following:

SEC. 221. SUPPORT FOR STATE RESPONSE TO CHILDREN WITH PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated, and is appropriated, out of monies in the Treasury not otherwise obligated, $10,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide grants to States to support treatment of children with pre-existing conditions. Funds appropriated under this section shall remain available until expended.

SA 355. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 129, strike lines 3 through 10 and insert the following:

SEC. 221. SUPPORT FOR STATE RESPONSE TO ADULTS WITH PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated, and is appropriated, out of monies in the Treasury not otherwise obligated, $10,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide grants to States to support treatment of adults with pre-existing conditions. Funds appropriated under this section shall remain available until expended.

SA 356. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 129, strike lines 3 through 10 and insert the following:

SEC. 221. SUPPORT FOR STATE RESPONSE TO DEPRESSION.

There is authorized to be appropriated, and is appropriated, out of monies in the Treasury not otherwise obligated, $10,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide grants to States to support treatment of individuals with depression. Funds appropriated under this section shall remain available until expended.

SA 357. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 129, strike lines 3 through 10 and insert the following:

SEC. 221. SUPPORT FOR STATE RESPONSE TO OPIOID ADDICTION.

There is authorized to be appropriated, and is appropriated, out of monies in the Treasury not otherwise obligated, $10,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide grants to States to support treatment for opioid addiction. Funds appropriated under this section shall remain available until expended.

SA 350. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 129, strike lines 3 through 10 and insert the following:

SEC. 221. SUPPORT FOR STATE RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

There is authorized to be appropriated, and is appropriated, out of monies in the Treasury not otherwise obligated, $10,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide grants to States to support assistance for victims of domestic violence. Funds appropriated under this section shall remain available until expended.

SA 352. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 129, strike lines 3 through 10 and insert the following:

SEC. 221. SUPPORT FOR STATE RESPONSE TO PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated, and is appropriated, out of monies in the Treasury not otherwise obligated, $10,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide grants to States to support treatment of pediatric cancers. Funds appropriated under this section shall remain available until expended.

SA 353. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 129, strike lines 3 through 10 and insert the following:

SEC. 221. SUPPORT FOR STATE RESPONSE TO EPIDEMIC CANCERS.

There is authorized to be appropriated, and is appropriated, out of monies in the Treasury not otherwise obligated, $10,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide grants to States to support treatment of prostate cancer. Funds appropriated under this section shall remain available until expended.

SA 349. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 129, strike lines 3 through 10 and insert the following:

SEC. 221. SUPPORT FOR STATE RESPONSE TO UNCOMPENSATED CARE.

There is authorized to be appropriated, and is appropriated, out of monies in the Treasury not otherwise obligated, $10,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide grants to States to support uncompensated care at nonprofit or hospitals operated by the Federal Government.
SA 358. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 221. SUPPORT FOR STATE RESPONSE TO MENTAL ILLNESS.

There is authorized to be appropriated, and is appropriated, out of monies in the Treasury not otherwise obligated, $10,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide grants to States to support treatment of individuals with mental illness. Funds appropriated under this section shall remain available until expended.

SA 359. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 221. SUPPORT FOR STATE RESPONSE TO HEART DISEASE.

There is authorized to be appropriated, and is appropriated, out of monies in the Treasury not otherwise obligated, $10,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide grants to States to support treatment of individuals with heart disease. Funds appropriated under this section shall remain available until expended.

SA 360. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 221. SUPPORT FOR STATE RESPONSE TO BREAST CANCER.

There is authorized to be appropriated, and is appropriated, out of monies in the Treasury not otherwise obligated, $10,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide grants to States to support treatment of individuals with breast cancer. Funds appropriated under this section shall remain available until expended.

SA 361. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 221. SUPPORT FOR STATE RESPONSE TO PARKINSON'S DISEASE.

There is authorized to be appropriated, and is appropriated, out of monies in the Treasury not otherwise obligated, $10,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide grants to States to support treatment of individuals with Parkinson's disease. Funds appropriated under this section shall remain available until expended.

SA 362. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 221. SUPPORT FOR STATE RESPONSE TO POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER.

There is authorized to be appropriated, and is appropriated, out of monies in the Treasury not otherwise obligated, $10,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide grants to States to support treatment of individuals with post-traumatic stress disorder. Funds appropriated under this section shall remain available until expended.

SA 363. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 221. SUPPORT FOR STATE RESPONSE TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE.

There is authorized to be appropriated, and is appropriated, out of monies in the Treasury not otherwise obligated, $10,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide grants to States to support treatment of individuals with Alzheimer's disease. Funds appropriated under this section shall remain available until expended.

SA 364. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 221. SUPPORT FOR STATE RESPONSE TO PARKINSON'S DISEASE.

This Act (and the amendments made by this Act) shall not take effect until the Chief Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services certifies to Congress that the implementation of this Act (and amendments) will not result in the loss of mental health and substance use disorder services, including behavioral health treatment (including counseling and psychotherapy) under the Medicaid program.

SA 365. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 2. PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUALS' HEALTH CARE.

This Act (and the amendments made by this Act) shall not take effect until the Chief Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services certifies to Congress that the implementation of this Act (and amendments) will not result in the loss of mental health and substance use disorder services, including behavioral health treatment (including counseling and psychotherapy) under the Medicaid program.

SA 366. Mr. KAYE (for himself, Ms. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARPER, and Mrs. SHAHEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 2. PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUALS' HEALTH CARE.

This Act (and the amendments made by this Act) shall not take effect until the Chief Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services certifies to Congress that the implementation of this Act (and amendments) will not result in the loss of mental health and substance use disorder services, including behavioral health treatment (including counseling and psychotherapy) under the Medicaid program.

SA 367. Ms. DUCKWORTH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike subtitles B through C of title I.

SA 368. Ms. DUCKWORTH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 821.

SA 369. Ms. DUCKWORTH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 2. REPORT ON POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS TO PROCESSING RETIREMENT AND MEDICAL DISCHARGES.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, submit to the congressional defense committees and the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on possible improvements to the transition of members of the Armed Forces to veteran status.
(b) ELEMENTS.—The report under subsection (a) shall address the following:

(1) Feasibility of requiring members of the Armed Forces to apply for benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs before such members complete discharge from the Armed Forces.

(2) Feasibility of requiring members of the Armed Forces to undergo compensation and pension examinations (to be administered by the Secretary of Defense) for purposes of obtaining benefits described in paragraph (1) before such members complete discharge from the Armed Forces.

(3) Possible improvements to the timeliness of the process for transitioning members who require medical discharge to care provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SA 370. Ms. DUCKWORTH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 408. TRAINING REQUIREMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PRESCRIBING OPIOIDS FOR TREATMENT OF PAIN.

(a) TRAINING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall require military personnel, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to provide the training required under paragraph (b) before such personnel complete discharge from the Armed Forces.

(b) TRAINING.—The training described in this paragraph is not fewer than 12 hours of training (through classroom situations, seminmars, online courses, or otherwise) that is provided by organizations specified in sub-paragraph (B) with respect to—

(i) pain management treatment guidelines and best practices;

(ii) early detection of opioid addiction; and

(iii) the treatment and management of opioid-dependent patients.

(2) TRAINING DESCRIBED.—

(a) TRAINING.—The training described in this paragraph is not fewer than 12 hours of training (through classroom situations, seminars at professional society meetings, electronic communications, or otherwise) that is provided by organizations specified in sub-paragraph (B) with respect to—

(i) pain management treatment guidelines and best practices;

(ii) early detection of opioid addiction; and

(iii) the treatment and management of opioid-dependent patients.

(3) TRAINING SPECIFIED.—The organizations specified in this subparagraph are the following:

(A) The American Society of Addiction Medicine.

(B) The American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry.

(C) The American Medical Association.

(D) The American Osteopathic Association.


(F) The American Academy of Pain Management.

(G) The American Pain Society.


(I) The American Board of Pain Medicine.

(J) The American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians.

(K) Such other organizations as the Secretary of Defense determines appropriate for purposes of this subparagraph.

(2) E LEMENTS.—The Secretary of Defense may request the development of training modules to be used to provide the training required under subsection (a).

(c) REPORTS.—Not later than 60 days after each year the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs jointly conduct an annual review of the efforts undertaken by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to achieve complete interoperability between the electronic health record of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Military Health System.

SEC. 409. PROVISION OF SUPPORT BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REGARDING ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall provide the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with support for the electronic health record system for the purposes of this subsection.

(b) AMOUNT.—The amount the Secretary of Defense shall provide under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) $200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022;

(2) 10 percent of the amount provided under paragraph (1) for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027;

(3) Such amount as the Secretary of Defense determines appropriate for each of fiscal years 2028 through 2032.

(c) REPORTS.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Senate Appropriations Committee a report on the activities carried out under paragraph (1).

SEC. 410. INTEROPERABILITY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘‘interoperability’’ means the ability of different electronic health records systems or software to meaningfully exchange information in real time and provide useful results to one or more systems.

SA 371. Ms. DUCKWORTH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 457. RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMERCIAL MARKET REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMERCIAL MARKET REPRESENTATIVES.—

(1) By 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall establish or support the establishment of defense (commercial) market representatives to work with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve the delivery of health care to veterans and to the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report on the activities carried out under paragraph (1).

SEC. 458. RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMERCIAL MARKET REPRESENTATIVES.—

(a) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMERCIAL MARKET REPRESENTATIVES.—

(1) By 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall establish or support the establishment of defense (commercial) market representatives to work with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve the delivery of health care to veterans and to the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.
-commercial market representative.’’.

initial job posting for the position of a com-

and certification requirements described

quired under section 8(d)(6).

compliance with subcontracting plans re-

tractors awarded contracts containing the

performance;

performing subcontracts;

small business concerns that are capable of

including—

shall be to advance the policies established

trator with responsibilities under sections 8,

mercial market representative referred to in sec-

Circular A–123, Appendix B.

ence checks shall comply with controls pre-

United States Code, or a lower amount set

check may not be used for an amount in ex-

(A) helping prime contractors to find

(A) IN GENERAL.—Consistent with the re-

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking the period

1902(a)(1) of title 41, United States Code, is

by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to author-

an amendment intended to be proposed

SA 375. Ms. DUCKWORTH submitted an amend-

amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to author-

appropriations for fiscal year 2018

fiscal year 2018 for military

intended to be proposed by her to the

for military activities of the Depart-

for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe

military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes;

which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, add the follow-

SEC. 852. OPTIMIZATION OF MICRO-PURCHASE

(a) INCREASE IN THRESHOLD.—Section

by striking “sections 2338 and 2339” and

inserting “section 2339”; and

by striking “$3,000” and

inserting “$10,000”.

(b) CONFORMING AND CLERICAL AMEND-

-ments.—

(1) Section 2338 of title 10, United States

Code, is repealed.

(2) The table of sections at the beginning of

chapter 137 of such title is amended by strik-

ring the item relating to section 2338.

(c) CONVENIENCE CHECKS.—A convenience

check may not be used for an amount in ex-

cess of one half of the micro-purchase

threshold under section 1902(a) of title 41,

United States Code, or a lower amount set

by the head of the agency. Use of conven-

cence checks shall comply with controls pre-

scribed in Office of Management and Budget

Circular A–129, Appendix B.

SA 376. Ms. DUCKWORTH (for her-

self, Mr. DOUGHERTY, Ms. ERNST, and

GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment

intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to author-

appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military

activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Depart-

ment of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XXVIII, add the follow-

SEC. 864. CERTIFICATION RELATED TO CER-

TAIN 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 para-

graph (5);”;

and

(2) by adding at the end the follow-

ing: “For purposes of paragraph (2), the cer-

tification described in this paragraph with

respect to an acquisition or lease of real

property is a certification that the Secretary

concerned—

“(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 jurisdic-

tion of the Department of Defense is not rea-

sonably 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.”.”.

SA 377. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment

intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the fol-

lowing:

SEC. 3. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST ELIMI-

NATING OR REDUCING FEDERAL FUNDING TO STATES UNDER THE

MEDIACARE EXPANSION.

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint

resolution, motion, amendment, amendment

between the Houses, or con-

consideration of a concurrent resolution on the budget for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018; as follows:

Mr. MARKEY submitted an
At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. . NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.**

The provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that would reduce the Federal Government's financial commitment to current, active, and successful Medicaid waivers under section 1115 of the Social Security Act that are promoting the objectives of title XIX of such Act shall be null and void and shall not be administered, if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

**SA 379. Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. VAN HOLLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:**

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. . REPEAL OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS IF PERCENTAGE OF UNINSURED INCREASED DURING 1-YEAR PERIOD.**

Not later than 30 days after the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Congressional Budget Office shall determine whether the percentage of uninsured individuals in America is higher than the percentage of such individuals as of such date of enactment. If the percentage of uninsured individuals increased during that 1-year period as a result of changes made by this Act, effective as of the date of such determination, the provisions of, and the amendments made by, this Act that terminate the Medicaid expansion and impose Medicaid per capita caps shall be null and void and this Act shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

**SA 383. Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 2810, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:**

At the end of subtitle B of title V, add the following:

**PART II—RESERVE COMPONENT BENEFITS PARITY**

**SEC. . ELIGIBILITY OF RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS FOR PRE-MOBILIZATION HEALTH CARE.**

Section 1574h(d)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “in support of a contingency operation under” and inserting “under section 12304(b) of this title or”.

**SEC. . ELIGIBILITY OF RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS FOR TRANSITIONAL HEALTH CARE.**

Section 1145(a)(2)(B) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “in support of a contingency operation and” and inserting “under section 12304(b) of this title or a provision of law referred to in section 101(a)(13)(B) of this title”.

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. . CONSIDERATION OF SERVICE ON ACTIVE DUTY TO REDUCE AGE FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR RETIRED PAY FOR NON-REGULAR SERVICE.**

Section 12731(c)(2)(B)(i) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “under a provision of law referred to in section 101(a)(13)(B) or section 12304(d)” and inserting “under section 12304(b) of this title or a provision of law referred to in section 101(a)(13)(B) of this title”.

**SEC. . ELIGIBILITY OF RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS FOR HIGH-DEPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE FOR LENGTHY OR NUMEROUS DEPLOYMENTS AND FREQUENT MOBILIZATIONS.**

Section 436 of chapter 37, United States Code, is amended by inserting after “under the first place it appears the following”: “section 12304(b) of title 10”.

**SEC. . ELIGIBLE RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS FOR POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.**

Section 3340 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “or 12304” and inserting “12304, 12304a, or 12304b”.

**SEC. . ELIGIBILITY OF RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS FOR NONREDUCTION IN PAY WHILE SERVING IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OR NATIONAL GUARD.**

Section 5538(a)(title 5, United States Code, is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting after “under” the following: “section 12304(b) of title 10 or”.

**SEC. . EFFECT OF ORDER TO SERVE ON ACTIVE DUTY ON ELIGIBILITY FOR OR USE OF CERTAIN MILITARY BENEFITS.**

(a) EXCEPTION TO VOLUNTARY SEPARATION PAY. —Department Requirement for Members Who Return to Active Duty.—Section 1175a(j)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “12304” and inserting “12304, 12304a, or 12304b”.

(b) TIME LIMITATION FOR TRAINING AND REHABILITATION FOR VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.—Section 3103(f) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “or 12304” and inserting “12304, 12304a, or 12304b”.

**SEC. . RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY OF AMENDMENTS.**

The amendments made by this part shall apply with respect to any order for a member of a reserve component to serve on active duty under section 12304 of title 10, United States Code, issued on or after January 1, 2012.

**SA 384. Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. NELSON, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. WARREN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 267 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:**

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. . STEWARDSHIP FEE ON OPIOID PAIN RELIEVERS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter E of chapter 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**1492. OPIOID PAIN RELIEVERS.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There is hereby imposed on the sale of any active opioid by the manufacturer, producer, or importer a fee equal to 1 cent per milligram so sold.

(b) ACTIV OPIOD.—For purposes of this section—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘active opioid’ means any controlled substance (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this section) which is opium, an opiate, or any derivative of the opioid and another ingredient, subsection (a)

(2) EXCLUSION FOR CERTAIN PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS.—Such term shall not include any prescribed drug which is used exclusively for the treatment of opioid addiction as part of a medically assisted treatment effort.

(3) EXCLUSION OF OTHER INGREDIENTS.—In the case of a product that includes an active opioid and another ingredient, subsection (a) shall apply only to the portion of such product that is an active opioid.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The heading of subchapter E of chapter 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “Medical Devices” and inserting “Other Medical Devices”.

(2) The table of subchapters of chapter 32 of such Code is amended by striking the item
relating to subchapter E and inserting the following new item:

"SEC. 4192. Opioid pain relievers."

"(1) Establishing new addiction treatment facilities, residential and outpatient, including covering capital costs;

"(B) establishing sober living facilities;

"(C) recruiting and increasing reimbursement certified for mental health providers providing substance abuse treatment in medically underserved communities or communities with high rates of prescription drug abuse;

"(D) expanding access to long-term, residential treatment programs for opioid addicts (including 30-, 60-, and 90-day programs);

"(E) establishing or operating support programs that offer employment services, housing assistance, and other services to recovering addicts transition back into society;

"(F) establishing or operating housing for children whose parents are participating in substance abuse treatment programs, including capital costs;

"(G) establishing or operating facilities to provide care for babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome, including capital costs; and

"(H) other treatment programs, as the Secretary determines appropriate; and

"(2) suggestions for improving—

"(A) access to opioids for cancer and hospice patients under section 4192 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by section 01(d) of the Act; and

"(B) substance abuse treatment efforts under such section 4192A.

SEC. 02. BLOCK GRANTS FOR PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE.

(a) Grants to States.—Section 1921(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 300x–2) is amended—

"(l) removing and increasing reimbursement for certified mental health providers providing substance abuse treatment in medically underserved communities or communities with high rates of prescription drug abuse;

"(2) patient access to such opioids, particularly cancer and hospice patients; and

"(C) recruiting and increasing reimbursement for mental health providers providing substance abuse treatment in medically underserved communities or communities with high rates of prescription drug abuse.

(b) Nonapplicability of Prevention Program.—Section 1923(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x–22a) is amended by inserting—

"(A) establishing new addiction treatment facilities, residential and outpatient, including covering capital costs;

"(B) establishing sober living facilities;

"(C) recruiting and increasing reimbursement certified for mental health providers providing substance abuse treatment in medically underserved communities or communities with high rates of prescription drug abuse;

"(D) expanding access to long-term, residential treatment programs for opioid addicts (including 30-, 60-, and 90-day programs);

"(E) establishing or operating support programs that offer employment services, housing assistance, and other services to recovering addicts transition back into society;

"(F) establishing or operating housing for children whose parents are participating in substance abuse treatment programs, including capital costs;

"(G) establishing or operating facilities to provide care for babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome, including capital costs; and

"(H) other treatment programs, as the Secretary determines appropriate; and

"(2) suggestions for improving—

"(A) access to opioids for cancer and hospice patients under such section 4192A.
for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SA 389. Mr. STRANGE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for 2017; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 1. PREMIUM ASSISTANCE FOR LOW INCOME INDIVIDUALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 2105 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397ee), as amended by this Act, is amended to read as follows:

'(b) SHORT-TERM ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS COVERAGE AND ACCESS DISRUPTION AND PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR STATES AND DIRECT PREMIUM ASSISTANCE.—
(1) APPROPRIATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise obligated:
''(A) $15,000,000,000 for each of calendar years 2018 and 2019, and $10,000,000,000 for each of calendar years 2020 and 2021, to make the premium assistance payments described in paragraph (2).
''(B) such sums as are necessary for calendar year 2022 and each calendar year thereafter, with respect to each individual enrolled in a qualified health plan, in the manner described in paragraph (2).
(2) PREMIUM ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS.—For calendar year 2019 and each calendar year thereafter, with respect to each individual enrolled in a qualified health plan, for each month during which such individual is enrolled for health insurance coverage for such month, the Secretary shall make a payment to the issuer of such plan in an amount equal to such individual’s share of the premiums charged to such individual under such plan for such month.''

(b) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—(1) FINALIZING LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall finalize a map and the legal description of the property to be conveyed under subsection (a).
(2) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—The Secretary of the Air Force may correct any minor errors in the map or the legal description.
(3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection.
(c) PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—(1) PAYMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary may require the City to cover all costs (except costs for environmental remediation of the property) to be incurred by the Secretary, or to reimburse the Secretary for costs incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyance under this subsection, including survey costs, costs for environmental documentation, and any other administrative costs related to the conveyance. If amounts are collected from the City 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, the Secretary shall refund the excess amount to the City.
(2) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—Amounts credited under paragraph (1) shall be merged into 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 described in this subsection.
(d) USE RESERVATION.—The Secretary may reserve the property to use temporarily for the reasons of national defense and at no cost to the United States, all or a portion of the railroad spur conveyed under subsection (a)
(e) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance described in subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

SEC. 2826. LAND CONVEYANCE, MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE, IDAHO.

(a) CONveyANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of the Air Force may convey, without consideration, 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, consisting of approximately 4.25 miles of railroad spur conveyed under subsection (a).

(b) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—(1) FINALIZING LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall finalize a map and the legal description of the property to be conveyed under subsection (a).
(2) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—The Secretary of the Air Force may correct any minor errors in the map or the legal description.
(3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection.
(c) PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—(1) PAYMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance described in subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

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(b) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—(1) FINALIZING LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall finalize a map and the legal description of the property to be conveyed under subsection (a).
(2) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—The Secretary of the Air Force may correct any minor errors in the map or the legal description.
(3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection.
(c) PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—(1) PAYMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance described in subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

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(b) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—(1) FINALIZING LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall finalize a map and the legal description of the property to be conveyed under subsection (a).
(2) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—The Secretary of the Air Force may correct any minor errors in the map or the legal description.
(3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection.
(c) PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—(1) PAYMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance described in subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

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(b) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—(1) FINALIZING LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall finalize a map and the legal description of the property to be conveyed under subsection (a).
(2) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—The Secretary of the Air Force may correct any minor errors in the map or the legal description.
(3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection.
(c) PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—(1) PAYMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance described in subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

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(b) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—(1) FINALIZING LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall finalize a map and the legal description of the property to be conveyed under subsection (a).
(2) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—The Secretary of the Air Force may correct any minor errors in the map or the legal description.
(3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection.
(c) PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—(1) PAYMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance described in subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

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(b) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—(1) FINALIZING LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall finalize a map and the legal description of the property to be conveyed under subsection (a).
(2) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—The Secretary of the Air Force may correct any minor errors in the map or the legal description.
(3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection.
(c) PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—(1) PAYMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance described in subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

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(a) CONveyANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of the Air Force may convey, without consideration, 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, consisting of approximately 4.25 miles of railroad spur conveyed under subsection (a).

(b) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—(1) FINALIZING LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall finalize a map and the legal description of the property to be conveyed under subsection (a).
(2) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—The Secretary of the Air Force may correct any minor errors in the map or the legal description.
(3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection.
(c) PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—(1) PAYMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance described in subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.
by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) PHASEDOWN OF PREMIUM ASSISTANCE CREDIT AMOUNT IN YEARS AFTER 2018.—In the case of any year beginning after 2018, the premium assistance credit amount is 1/10 of the amount determined under paragraph (1) (without regard to this paragraph).

(2) COORDINATION WITH DIRECT PREMIUM ASSISTANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 1412 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) PHASEDOWN OF PREMIUM ASSISTANCE CREDIT AMOUNT IN YEARS AFTER 2018.—In the case of any year beginning after 2018, the premium assistance credit amount is 1/10 of the amount determined under paragraph (1) (without regard to this paragraph).

(B) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 1412 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) PHASEDOWN OF PREMIUM ASSISTANCE CREDIT AMOUNT IN YEARS AFTER 2018.—In the case of any year beginning after 2018, the premium assistance credit amount is 1/10 of the amount determined under paragraph (1) (without regard to this paragraph).

(C) R EPEAL OF ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The following sections of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act are repealed:

(A) Section 1411 other than subsection (i), the last sentence of subsection (e)(4)(A)(ii), and such provisions of such section solely to the extent related to the application of the last sentence of subsection (e)(4)(A)(ii).

(B) Section 1412.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this paragraph shall take effect after December 31, 2019.

SEC. 105. MODIFICATIONS TO SMALL BUSINESS TAX CREDIT.

(a) SUNSET.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 45R of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(b) DISALLOWANCE OF SMALL EMPLOYER HEALTH INSURANCE EXPENSE CREDIT FOR PLAN WHICH INCLUDES COVERAGE FOR ABORTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 45R of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“EXCLUSION OF HEALTH PLANS INCLUDING COVERAGE FOR ABORTION.—The term ‘qualified health plan’ does not include any health plan that includes coverage for abortions (other than any abortion necessary to save the life of the mother or any abortion with respect to a pregnancy that is the result of an act of rape or incest).”

(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect after December 31, 2019.
(1) Paragraph (1) of section 4980B(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting ‘‘($0 in the case of months beginning after December 31, 2015)’’ after ‘‘$2,000’’.

(2) Paragraph (1) of section 4980B(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting ‘‘($0 in the case of months beginning after December 31, 2015)’’ after ‘‘$3,000’’.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2105 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397ee) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

‘‘(h) SHORT-TERM ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS COVERAGE AND ACCESS DISRUPTION AND PROMOTE HEALTH BENEFITS STABILIZATION.—

‘‘(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to calendar year 2018, there is appropriated—

(A) $158,000,000,000;

(B) $155,000,000,000;

(C) $152,000,000,000;

(D) $149,000,000,000;

(E) $146,000,000,000;

(F) $143,000,000,000;

(G) $140,000,000,000;

(H) $137,000,000,000;

(I) $134,000,000,000;

(J) $131,000,000,000;

(K) $128,000,000,000;

(L) $125,000,000,000;

(M) $122,000,000,000;

(N) $119,000,000,000;

(O) $116,000,000,000;

(P) $113,000,000,000;

(Q) $110,000,000,000;

(R) $107,000,000,000;

(S) $104,000,000,000;

(T) $101,000,000,000;

(U) $98,000,000,000;

(V) $95,000,000,000;

(W) $92,000,000,000;

(X) $89,000,000,000;

(Y) $86,000,000,000;

(Z) $83,000,000,000;

(aa) $80,000,000,000;

(bb) $77,000,000,000;

(cc) $74,000,000,000;

(dd) $71,000,000,000;

(ee) $68,000,000,000;

(ff) $65,000,000,000;

(gg) $62,000,000,000;

(hh) $59,000,000,000;

(ii) $56,000,000,000;

(jj) $53,000,000,000;

(kk) $50,000,000,000;

(ll) $47,000,000,000;

(mm) $44,000,000,000;

(nn) $41,000,000,000;

(oo) $38,000,000,000;

(pp) $35,000,000,000;

(qq) $32,000,000,000;

(rr) $29,000,000,000;

(ss) $26,000,000,000;

(tt) $23,000,000,000;

(uu) $20,000,000,000;

(vv) $17,000,000,000;

(ww) $14,000,000,000;

(xx) $11,000,000,000;

(yy) $8,000,000,000;

(zz) $5,000,000,000;

(aba) $2,000,000,000; and

(abb) the amount appropriated—

(A) for calendar year 2020, $15,000,000,000; and

(B) for calendar year 2021, $15,000,000,000; to each of the following purposes:

(1) To establish or maintain a program to assist in the purchase of health benefits coverage by stabilizing premiums and promoting State health insurance market participation and choice in plans offered in the individual market (within the meaning of section 5000A(f)(1)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).

(2) To provide payments for health care providers for the activities specified in subparagraph (A), as specified by the Administrator.

(3) To provide health insurance coverage through employer plans to qualified individuals who are not less than 45 and not more than 64 years old, and who were not less than 100 percent, and not greater than 188 percent, of the poverty line (as so defined) applicable to a family of the size involved.

(4) To provide short-term assistance to address coverage and access disruption and promote health benefits stabilization.

(5) To provide payments for health care providers for the activities specified in subparagraph (A), as specified by the Administrator.

(B) With respect to each State for which an allotment is approved by the Administrator for that year:

(1) amount determined under subparagraph (A), the amount alloted to the State for a year under this subsection.

(2) For purposes of this title, the Secretary shall treat any allocation as paid on the date of allotment.

(3) The amount alloted to the State for a year under this subsection shall be equal to the sum of each of the following component amounts which is applicable to the State:

(A) MARKET-BASED HEALTH CARE GRANT.—

(i) From Federal funds under section 1337(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(ii) State funds and funds provided by States as required under subparagraph (A), the amount alloted to the State for a year under this subsection.

(B) With respect to each State for which an allotment is approved by the Administrator for that year, the amount appropriated—

(1) for calendar year 2020, $15,000,000,000; and

(2) for calendar year 2021, $15,000,000,000; to each of the following purposes:

(1) To establish or maintain a program to assist in the purchase of health benefits coverage by stabilizing premiums and promoting State health insurance market participation and choice in plans offered in the individual market (within the meaning of section 5000A(f)(1)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).

(2) To provide payments for health care providers for the activities specified in subparagraph (A), as specified by the Administrator.

(3) To provide health insurance coverage through employer plans to qualified individuals who are not less than 45 and not more than 64 years old, and who were not less than 100 percent, and not greater than 188 percent, of the poverty line (as so defined) applicable to a family of the size involved.

(4) To provide short-term assistance to address coverage and access disruption and promote health benefits stabilization.

(5) To provide payments for health care providers for the activities specified in subparagraph (A), as specified by the Administrator.

(B) With respect to each State for which an allotment is approved by the Administrator for that year:

(1) amount determined under subparagraph (A), the amount alloted to the State for a year under this subsection.

(2) For purposes of this title, the Secretary shall treat any allocation as paid on the date of allotment.

(3) The amount alloted to the State for a year under this subsection shall be equal to the sum of each of the following component amounts which is applicable to the State:

(A) MARKET-BASED HEALTH CARE GRANT.—

(i) From Federal funds under section 1337(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(ii) State funds and funds provided by States as required under subparagraph (A), the amount alloted to the State for a year under this subsection.

(B) With respect to each State for which an allotment is approved by the Administrator for that year, the amount appropriated—

(1) for calendar year 2020, $15,000,000,000; and

(2) for calendar year 2021, $15,000,000,000; to each of the following purposes:

(1) To establish or maintain a program to assist in the purchase of health benefits coverage by stabilizing premiums and promoting State health insurance market participation and choice in plans offered in the individual market (within the meaning of section 5000A(f)(1)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).

(2) To provide payments for health care providers for the activities specified in subparagraph (A), as specified by the Administrator.

(3) To provide health insurance coverage through employer plans to qualified individuals who are not less than 45 and not more than 64 years old, and who were not less than 100 percent, and not greater than 188 percent, of the poverty line (as so defined) applicable to a family of the size involved.

(4) To provide short-term assistance to address coverage and access disruption and promote health benefits stabilization.

(5) To provide payments for health care providers for the activities specified in subparagraph (A), as specified by the Administrator.
amount equal to 25 percent of the amount so appropriated multiplied by the ratio of—
   "(I) the number of individuals in the State whose income for calendar year 2019 was not less than 138 percent, of the poverty line (as defined in section 2110(c)(5)) applicable to a family of the size involved; or
   "(II) the number of individuals in all States that, for calendar year 2019, had an average population density of fewer than 115 individuals per square mile but fewer than 138 percent, of the poverty line (as defined) applicable to a family of the size involved; or
   "(v) With respect to each State that, for calendar year 2019, had an average population density of fewer than 115 individuals per square mile but fewer than 138 percent, of the poverty line (as defined) applicable to a family of the size involved; or
   "(vi) With respect to each State that, for calendar year 2019, had an average population density of fewer than 115 individuals per square mile, an amount equal to 5.5 percent of the amount so appropriated, divided by the number of such States.

   (v) With respect to each State that, for calendar year 2019, had an average population density that was greater than 14 individuals per square mile, an amount equal to 5.5 percent of the amount so appropriated, divided by the number of such States.

   (vi) With respect to each State that, for calendar year 2019, had an average population density that was greater than 14 individuals per square mile, an amount equal to 60 percent of the amount so appropriated, divided by the number of such States.

   (vii) With respect to each State that was an expansion State for calendar year 2019, an amount equal to 35 percent of the amount so appropriated multiplied by the ratio of—

   "(I) the number of individuals in the State whose income for calendar year 2019 was not less than 138 percent, of the poverty line (as defined in section 2110(c)(5)) applicable to a family of the size involved; or

   "(II) the number of individuals in all States that were expansion States for calendar year 2019 whose income for calendar year 2019 was not less than 100 percent, and not greater than 138 percent, of the poverty line (as so defined) applicable to a family of the size involved.

   (B) CALENDAR YEAR 2020 ALLOTMENT PARAMETERS.—The Secretary shall adjust the amounts of allotments determined under this paragraph for States for calendar year 2020 under paragraph (A) as necessary to ensure that a State’s allotment for calendar year 2020 (prior to any redistribution of unallotted funds under subparagraph (G)) shall be—

   "(i) greater than 3 times the sum of—

   "(I) the amount of Federal payments made to the State for calendar year 2019 for medical assistance provided to individuals under clause (i)(VIII) or (ii)(XX) of section 1902(a)(10)(A) (including medical assistance provided to individuals who are not newly eligible for such assistance as defined in section 1902(a)(2)(H)) individuals described in subclause (VIII) of section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i));

   "(II) the amount of Federal payments for cost-sharing reductions provided for calendar year 2019 under section 1402 of such Act to individuals who purchased insurance through the Exchange established for or by the State pursuant to title I of such Act; and

   "(IV) the amount of Federal payments for the year for which the Section 36B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 made under section 1412(a) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in calendar year 2016 on behalf of individuals who purchased insurance through the Exchange for calendar year 2016 for operating a Basic Health Program under section 1331 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act for such year;

   (C) CALENDAR YEARS AFTER 2020.—For calendar years after 2020 and before 2026, the amount determined under this paragraph for a State and year shall be equal to—

   "(I) the amount determined for the State under subparagraph (A) (after adjustment under subparagraph (B), if applicable) or this subparagraph for the previous year; increased by—

   "(II) the percentage increase in the medical care component of the consumer price index for all urban consumers (U.S. city average) from October 1 of the previous calendar year to October 1 of the calendar year in question; and

   "(III) the number of individuals in the State whose income for calendar year 2019 was not less than 100 percent, and not greater than 138 percent, of the poverty line (as defined in section 2110(c)(5)) applicable to a family of the size involved; or

   "(IV) the number of individuals in all States whose income for calendar year 2025 was not less than 100 percent, and not greater than 138 percent, of the poverty line (as defined) applicable to a family of the size involved.

   (D) CALENDAR YEAR 2025.—Subject to subparagraph (E), the amount determined under this paragraph for a State for calendar year 2025 shall be equal to the sum of each of the following component amounts which is applicable to the State:

   "(I) With respect to each State, an amount equal to 15.5 percent of the amount so appropriated for calendar year 2026 under paragraph (4)(A) multiplied by the ratio of—

   "(I) the number of individuals in the State whose income for calendar year 2026 was not less than 100 percent, and not greater than 138 percent, of the poverty line (as defined in section 2110(c)(5)) applicable to a family of the size involved; or

   "(II) the number of individuals in all States whose income for calendar year 2025 was not less than 100 percent, and not greater than 138 percent, of the poverty line (as defined) applicable to a family of the size involved.

   (E) CALENDAR YEARS AFTER 2025.—For calendar years after 2025 to the mean low income per capita allotment amount for the year (as determined in clause (ii))—

   "(i) greater than 3.5 times the sum of—

   "(I) the amount of Federal payments made to the State for calendar year 2016 for medical assistance provided to individuals under clause (i)(VIII) or (ii)(XX) of section 1902(a)(10)(A) (including medical assistance provided to individuals who are not newly eligible for such assistance as defined in section 1902(a)(2)(H)) individuals described in subclause (VIII) of section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i));

   "(II) the amount of Federal payments made to the State for calendar year 2015 for operating a Basic Health Program under section 1331 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act for such year;

   "(iii) the amount of Federal payments for cost-sharing reductions provided for calendar year 2015 under section 1402 of such Act to individuals who purchased insurance through the Exchange established for or by the State pursuant to title I of such Act; and

   "(iv) less than 75 percent of the sum of the amount specified in clause (i) and clause (ii) in calendar year 2016; or

   "(F) LOW INCOME POPULATION ADJUSTMENT.—

   (1) FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2021 THROUGH 2025.—For each of calendar years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 if a State’s low income per capita allotment amount for the year (as determined in clause (ii))—

   "(i) exceeds the mean low income per capita allotment amount for all States for the year by not less than 15 percent, the State’s allotment for the year (as so determined) shall be increased by a percentage that shall be determined by the Secretary but which shall not be less than 0.5 percent or greater than 5 percent; or

   "(ii) is not less than 15 percent below the mean low income per capita allotment amount for all States for the year, but which shall not be less than 0.5 percent or greater than 5 percent; and

   "(ii) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026.—For calendar year 2026, the Secretary shall adjust the allotment for the year for each State with a low income per capita allotment amount (as so defined in clause (ii)) that exceeds the mean low income per capita allotment amount for
all States for the year by more than 10 percent or is below such mean amount by not less than 10 percent in such a manner that the low income per capita allotment for each such State (after the adjustment under this clause) is within 10 percent of such mean amount.

"(ii) LOW INCOME PER CAPITA ALLOTMENT AMOUNT. — The term ‘low income per capita allotment amount’ means, with respect to a State and year—

"(I) the State’s allotment for the year, as determined under subparagraph (C); divided by

"(II) the number of individuals in the State; and

"(aa) whose income for the previous calendar year did not exceed 138 percent of the poverty line (as defined in section 211(c)(5)) applicable to a family of the size involved; and

"(bb) who, during the previous calendar year, were not enrolled under the State plan under title XIX (except that, in the case of an individual who is enrolled under the State plan under clause (i)(VII), (ii)(XX), or (i)(XXIII) of section 1902(a)(10)(A) as described in any such clause and is enrolled under a waiver of such plan, shall not be considered as receiving such assistance under such State plan for purposes of this clause).

"(iv) RULES OF APPLICATION.—

"(I) BUDGET NEUTRALITY REQUIREMENT.—In determining the appropriate percentages by which to adjust States’ allotments for a calendar year under this paragraph, the Secretary shall make such adjustments in a manner that does not result in a net increase in Federal payments under this section for such year, and if the Secretary cannot adjust such expenditures in such a manner there shall be no adjustment under this paragraph for such year.

"(II) NONAPPLICATION TO LOW-DENSITY STATES.—This paragraph shall not apply to any State that has a population density of less than 15 individuals per square mile, based on the most recent data available from the Bureau of the Census.

"(G) DISTRIBUTION OF UNALLOCATED FUNDS.—To the extent that any funds appropriated for a calendar year under paragraph (4)(A) remain after the determinations and adjustments made under the preceding subparagraphs of this paragraph, the Secretary shall increase the allotments so determined and adjusted for States that have a low income per capita allotment amount that is below the mean low income per capita allotment amount for all States in a manner to be determined by the Secretary.

"(H) EXPANSION STATE DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘expansion State’ means, with respect to a State and year, a State that provided for eligibility for medical assistance under the State plan established under title XIX on the basis of clause (i)(VII), (ii)(XX), or (i)(XXIII) of section 1902(a)(10)(A) as described in such clause under a waiver approved under section 1115 during calendar year 2017.

"(6) PAYMENTS.—

"(A) ANNUAL PAYMENT OF ALLOTMENTS.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Administrator shall pay to each State that has an approved application under this subsection for a year, from the amount allotted to the State under paragraph (4)(B) for the calendar year, an amount equal to the Federal percentage of the State’s expenditures for the year.

"(B) STATE EXPENDITURES REQUIRED BEGINNING 2022.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the Federal percentage is equal to 100 percent of the State percentage for that year, and the State percentage is equal to—

"(i) in the case of calendar year 2020, 3 percent;

"(ii) in the case of calendar year 2021, 3 percent;

"(iii) in the case of calendar year 2022, 4 percent;

"(iv) in the case of calendar year 2023, 4 percent;

"(v) in the case of calendar year 2024, 5 percent; and

"(vi) in the case of calendar year 2025, 5 percent; and

"(vii) in the case of calendar year 2026, 5 percent.

"(C) ADVANCE PAYMENT; RETROSPECTIVE ADJUSTMENT.—

"(I) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator deems it appropriate, the Administrator shall make payments under this subsection for each year on the basis of advance estimates of expenditures submitted by the State and such other investigation as the Administrator shall find necessary, and shall reduce or increase the payments as necessary to adjust for any overpayment or underpayment for prior years.

"(II) MISUSE OF FUNDS.—If the Administrator determines that a State is not using funds paid under this subsection in a manner consistent with the description provided by the State in its application approved under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall adjust the payments, or recover previous payments to the State under this subsection as the Administrator deems appropriate.

"(D) FLEXIBILITY IN SUBMITTAL OF CLAIMS.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as preventing a State from claiming as expenditures in the year expenditures that were incurred in a previous year.

"(E) EXEMPTIONS.—(Paragraphs (2), (3), (5), (6), (8), (10), and (11) of subsection (c) do not apply to payments under this subsection.)

"(2) Section 2105 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa) is amended—

"(a) IN GENERAL.—There is hereby established an Internal Revenue Reimbursement Arrangement Fund.

"(b) FUNDING.—There is appropriated to the Administrator to carry out amounts necessary to pay into such fund, beginning after December 31, 2017 in the amount of $10,000,000.

"(c) USE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017.

"(3) Section 2105(h) and the Market-Based Health Care Grant Program established in section 2105(i), the purpose; and

"(B) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting "subject to the methodology made available under this subsection or (h) or (i) of" before "section 2105".

SEC. 107. BETTER CARE RECONCILIATION IMPLEMENTATION FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is hereby established a Better Care Reconciliation Implementation Fund (referred to in this section as the “Fund”) within the Department of Health and Human Services to provide for Federal administrative expenses in carrying out this Act.

(b) FUNDING.—(1) There is appropriated to the Fund, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise provided for in this section, $5,000,000.

SEC. 108. REPEAL OF THE TAX ON EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS AND HEALTH PLAN BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 223(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “Such term” and all that follows thereunder.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2019.

SEC. 109. REPEAL OF TAX ON OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATIONS.

(a) HSAS.—(1) Subparagraph (a)(2) of section 223(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “Such term” and all that follows thereunder.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025, and chapter 43 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as such chapter would read if such subsection had never been enacted.

SEC. 110. REPEAL OF TAX ON HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS.

(a) HSAS.—Section 223(f)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "20 percent" and inserting "10 percent".

(b) ARCHER MSAS.—Section 223(f)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "20 percent" and inserting "15 percent".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to distributions made after December 31, 2016.

SEC. 111. REPEAL OF MEDICAL DEVICE EXCISE TAX.

Section 4191 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(d) APPLICABILITY.—The tax imposed under subsection (a) shall not apply to sales made by qualified medical device manufacturers of medical devices beginning after December 31, 2016.

SEC. 112. REPEAL OF ELIMINATION OF DEDUCTION FOR EXPENSES ALLOCABLE TO MEDICARE PART B PREMIUMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 139A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"This section shall be taken into account for purposes of determining whether any deduction is allowable with respect to any cost taken into account in determining such payment.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2016.

SEC. 113. REPEAL OF CHRONIC CARE TAX.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 223(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "10 percent" and inserting "7.5 percent".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2016.

SEC. 114. PURCHASE OF INSURANCE FROM HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 223 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "Community Health Centers, Inc." and inserting "Health Insurance Exchanges established under section 1341 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2016.

SEC. 115. REPEAL OF THE TAX ON EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS AND HEALTH PLAN BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Subparagraph (a)(2) of section 223(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "Such term" and all that follows thereunder.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2018.
the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ‘calendar year 2003’ for ‘calendar year 1992’ in subparagraph (B) thereof.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017.

SEC. 117. ALLOW BOTH SPOUSES TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SAME HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 223(b)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

"(5) SPECIAL RULE FOR MARRIED INDIVIDUALS WITH FAMILY COVERAGE.—

"(A) In general.—In the case of individuals who are married to each other, if both spouses are eligible individuals and either spouse has family coverage under a high deductible health plan as of the first day of any month—

"(i) the limitation under paragraph (1) shall be applied by not taking into account any other high deductible health plan coverage of either spouse (and if such spouses both have family coverage under separate high deductible health plans, only one such coverage shall be taken into account);

"(ii) such limitation (after application of clause (i)) shall be reduced by the aggregate amount paid to Archer MSAs of such spouses for the tax-exempt contributions for the taxable year, and

"(iii) such limitation (after application of clauses (i) and (ii)) shall be divided equally between such spouses unless they agree on a different division.

"(B) TREATMENT OF ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION AMOUNTS.—If both spouses referred to in paragraph (A) have attained age 55 before the close of the taxable year, the limitation referred to in subparagraph (A)(iii) which is subject to division between the spouses shall not be taken into account under paragraph (3) for any other high deductible health plan coverage of either spouse (and if such spouses both have family coverage under separate high deductible health plans, only one such coverage shall be taken into account), and

"(C) in subsection (d)(2)—

"(i) any amount allowable as a credit under section 223(g)(1) of such Code is amended—

"(A) by striking ‘calendar year 2003’ for ‘calendar year 1992’ in subparagraph (B) thereof.

"(B) HEALTH INSURANCE MAY NOT BE PURCHASED FROM ACCOUNT.—Except as provided in subparagrapht (C), no health insurance may be purchased with funds in an account established under section 129 under which an individual is provided coverage under a high deductible health plan, or

"(C) the amount in effect under section 162(l) with respect to such coverage, or

"(D) any amount excludable from gross income with respect to such coverage under section 106 (including by reason of section 125 or 401)."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to amounts paid for expenses incurred for, and distributions made for, coverage under a high deductible health plan beginning after December 31, 2017.

SEC. 119. EXCLUSION FROM HSAS OF HIGH DEDUCTIBLE HEALTH PLANS INCLUDING COVERAGE FOR ABORTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 223(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(D) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN MEDICAL EXPENSES INCURRED BEFORE ESTABLISHMENT OF HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT.—If a health savings account is established during the 60-day period beginning on the date that coverage of the account beneficiary under a high deductible health plan begins, then, solely for purposes of determining whether an amount paid is used for a qualified medical expense, such account shall be treated as having been established on the date that such coverage begins.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply with respect to coverage under a high deductible health plan beginning after December 31, 2017.

SEC. 120. FEDERAL PAYMENTS TO STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 504(a), 1902(a)(23), 1903(a), 2005(a)(4), 2102(a)(7), or 2102(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701, 7702(a), 1396(c), 1396d(a), 1397(b)(1), 1397e(a)(1), or the terms of any Medicaid waiver in effect on the date of enactment of this Act that is applied under section 1115 or 1115 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315, 1396a), for the 1-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, no Federal funds provided under section 1101 of the Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901), shall be provided to any State for fiscal year 1997, except as provided in subsection (b).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply with respect to coverage under a high deductible health plan beginning after December 31, 2017.
SEC. 122. REPEAL OF MEDICAID EXPANSION.

Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) is amended—

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1902(e)(14) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(e)(14)) is amended by striking “in or after the third month before the month in which the recipient makes application for assistance” and inserting “in or after the month in which the recipient makes application for assistance, or, in the case of a recipient who is 65 years of age or older or who is eligible for medical assistance on the basis of being blind or disabled at the time application is made, in or after the third month before the month in which the recipient makes application for assistance.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to medical assistance with respect to individuals who are deemed to be eligible on an application for such assistance made (or deemed to be made) on or after October 1, 2017.

SEC. 123. ELIGIBILITY REDETERMINATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1902(e)(14) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(e)(14)) (relating to modified adjusted gross income) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(J) FREQUENCY OF ELIGIBILITY REDETERMINATIONS.—Beginning on October 1, 2017, and until the effective date specified in subsection (b), the option of the State, the State plan may provide that the individual’s eligibility shall be redetermined every 6 months (or such shorter number of months as the Secretary determines based on the application of modifications adopted by the Secretary),”.

(b) INCREASED ADMINISTRATIVE MATCHING PERCENTAGE.—For each calendar quarter during the period beginning on October 1, 2017, and ending on December 31, 2019, the Federal matching percentage otherwise applicable under section 1903(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b(a)) with respect to State expenditures during such quarter that are attributable to meeting the requirements of section 1902(e)(14) (relating to determinations of eligibility using modified adjusted gross income) of such Act shall be increased by 5 percentage points with respect to State expenditures attributable to activities carried out by the State (and approved by the Secretary) to implement subsection (o) of section 1902.

SEC. 126. PROVIDER TAXES.

Section 1903(w)(4)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b(w)(4)(C)) is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(vii) For purposes of clause (i), a determination of the existence of an indirect guarantee shall be made under paragraph (4) of section 433.68(f) of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on June 1, 2017, except that—

“(I) for fiscal year 2021, ‘5.8 percent’ shall be substituted for ‘6 percent’ each place it appears;

“(II) for fiscal year 2022, ‘5.6 percent’ shall be substituted for ‘6 percent’ each place it appears;

“(III) for fiscal year 2023, ‘5.4 percent’ shall be substituted for ‘6 percent’ each place it appears;

“(V) for fiscal year 2025 and each subsequent fiscal year, ‘5.2 percent’ shall be substituted for ‘6 percent’ each place it appears.”

SEC. 127. PER CAPITA ALLOTMENT FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title XIX of the Social Security Act is amended—

(1) in section 1903 (42 U.S.C. 1396b)—

(A) in subsection (a), in the matter before paragraph (1), by inserting “and section 1903A(a)’ after “except as otherwise provided in this section’’; and

(B) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “to which” and inserting “to which, subject to section 1903A(a),” and

(2) by inserting after such section 1903 the following new section:

SEC. 1903A. PER CAPITA-BASED CAP ON PAYMENTS FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) APPLICABILITY.—In this section, the term ‘per capita-based cap’ on payments for medical assistance means—

(1) in general.—If a State which is one of the States or the District of Columbia has excess aggregate medical assistance expenditures (as defined in paragraph (2) for a fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year 2020), the total cap on payment to the State under section 1903(a)(1) for each quarter in the following fiscal year shall be reduced by 1⁄4 of

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to fiscal years beginning on October 1, 2021, and each fiscal year thereafter.
the excess aggregate medical assistance payments (as defined in paragraph (3)) for that previous fiscal year. In this section, the term 'State' means only the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

“(2) EXCESS AVERAGE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE EXPENDITURES.—In this subsection, the term 'excess aggregate medical assistance payments' means, for a State and fiscal year, the amount (if any) by which—

"(a) the amount of the adjusted total medical assistance expenditures (as defined in subsection (c)(4)(b)) for the State and fiscal year; and

"(b) the amount of the target total medical assistance expenditures (as defined in subsection (c)(4)(D)) for the State and fiscal year; exceeds

"(3) EXCESS AVERAGE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS.—In this subsection, the term "excess aggregate medical assistance payments' means, for a State for a fiscal year, the product of—

"(A) the excess aggregate medical assistance expenditures (as defined in paragraph (2)) for the State for the fiscal year; and

"(B) the Federal average medical assistance matching percentage (as defined in paragraph (4)) for the State for the fiscal year.

"(4) FEDERAL AVERAGE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE MATCHING PERCENTAGE.—In this subsection, the term "Federal average medical assistance matching percentage means, for a State for a fiscal year, the ratio (expressed as a percentage) calculated by—

"(A) the amount of the Federal payments that would be made to the State under section 1903(a)(1) for medical assistance expenditures (as defined in paragraph (5)) for calendar quarters in the fiscal year, (i) if paragraph (1) did not apply; to

"(B) the amount of the medical assistance expenditures for the State and fiscal year.

"(5) TIMELINE.—Each State shall submit its selection of a per capita base period to the Secretary not later than January 1, 2018.

"(C) PARAMETERS.—In selecting a per capita base period under this paragraph, a State shall—

"(i) only select a period of 8 (or, in the case of a State selecting a period under subparagraph (D), not less than 4) consecutive fiscal quarters that begins with a fiscal quarter earlier than the first quarter of fiscal year 2014 or ends with a fiscal quarter later than the third fiscal quarter of 2017.

"(D) BASE PERIOD FOR LATE-EXPANDING STATES.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term 'per capita base period' means, with respect to a State, a period of 8 (or, in the case of a State selecting a period under subparagraph (D), not less than 4) consecutive fiscal quarters that begins with a fiscal quarter earlier than the first quarter of fiscal year 2014 or ends with a fiscal quarter later than the third fiscal quarter of 2017.

"(ii) APPLICATION OF FURTHER REQUIREMENTS.—In selecting a per capita base period under this subsection, all other requirements of this paragraph shall apply to a per capita base period selected under this subparagraph.

"(iii) APPLICATION OF BASE PERIOD ADJUSTMENT RULES.—In this section, the term "period selected" includes a subsequent fiscal year or portion of a fiscal year if the Secretary determines that such an extension would be appropriate.

"(D) ADJUSTED TOTAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE EXPENDITURES.—Subject to subsection (g), the following shall apply:

"(i) the amount of the medical assistance expenditures (as defined in paragraph (2) and adjusted for the State and period, reduced by the amount of any excluded expenditures (as defined in paragraph (3) and adjusted under paragraph (5)) for the State and period otherwise included in such medical assistance expenditures; and

"(ii) the 1903A base period population percentage (as defined in paragraph (4)) for the State and fiscal year; unless—

"(A) only select a period of 8 (or, in the case of a State selecting a period under subparagraph (D), not less than 4) consecutive fiscal quarters that begins with a fiscal quarter earlier than the first quarter of fiscal year 2017.

"(B) the amount of the target total medical assistance expenditures (as defined in paragraph (5)) for calendar quarters in the fiscal year earlier than the first quarter of fiscal year 2017;

"(C) PARAMETERS.—In selecting a per capita base period, the Secretary shall—

"(i) ensure that all of the expenditures so excluded are attributable to the program under section 1932D; and

"(ii) ensure that all of the expenditures so excluded are attributable to the program under section 1932D.

"(E) BASE PERIOD FOR LATE-EXPANDING STATES.—In this section, the term 'per capita base period' means, with respect to a State, a period of 8 (or, in the case of a State selecting a period under subparagraph (D), not less than 4) consecutive fiscal quarters that begins with a fiscal quarter earlier than the first quarter of fiscal year 2017.

"(F) FEDERAL AVERAGE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE MATCHING PERCENTAGE.—In this subsection, the term "Federal average medical assistance matching percentage means, for a State for a fiscal year, the ratio (expressed as a percentage) calculated by—

"(A) the amount of the Federal payments that would be made to the State under section 1903(a)(1) for medical assistance expenditures (as defined in paragraph (5)) for calendar quarters in the fiscal year, (i) if paragraph (1) did not apply; to

"(B) the amount of the medical assistance expenditures for the State and fiscal year.

"(G) TIMELINE.—Each State shall submit its selection of a per capita base period to the Secretary not later than January 1, 2018.

"(H) PARAMETERS.—In selecting a per capita base period under this paragraph, a State shall—

"(i) only select a period of 8 (or, in the case of a State selecting a period under subparagraph (D), not less than 4) consecutive fiscal quarters that begins with a fiscal quarter earlier than the first quarter of fiscal year 2014 or ends with a fiscal quarter later than the third fiscal quarter of 2017.

"(I) BASE PERIOD FOR LATE-EXPANDING STATES.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term 'per capita base period' means, with respect to a State, a period of 8 (or, in the case of a State selecting a period under subparagraph (D), not less than 4) consecutive fiscal quarters that begins with a fiscal quarter earlier than the first quarter of fiscal year 2014 or ends with a fiscal quarter later than the third fiscal quarter of 2017.

"(ii) APPLICATION OF FURTHER REQUIREMENTS.—In selecting a per capita base period under this subsection, all other requirements of this paragraph shall apply to a per capita base period selected under this subparagraph.

"(iii) APPLICATION OF BASE PERIOD ADJUSTMENT RULES.—In this section, the term "period selected" includes a subsequent fiscal year or portion of a fiscal year if the Secretary determines that such an extension would be appropriate.

"(D) ADJUSTED TOTAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE EXPENDITURES.—Subject to subsection (g), the following shall apply:

"(i) the amount of the medical assistance expenditures (as defined in paragraph (2) and adjusted for the State and period, reduced by the amount of any excluded expenditures (as defined in paragraph (3) and adjusted under paragraph (5)) for the State and period otherwise included in such medical assistance expenditures; and

"(ii) the 1903A base period population percentage (as defined in paragraph (4)) for the State and fiscal year; unless—

"(A) only select a period of 8 (or, in the case of a State selecting a period under subparagraph (D), not less than 4) consecutive fiscal quarters that begins with a fiscal quarter earlier than the first quarter of fiscal year 2017.

"(B) the amount of the target total medical assistance expenditures (as defined in paragraph (5)) for calendar quarters in the fiscal year earlier than the first quarter of fiscal year 2017;

"(C) PARAMETERS.—In selecting a per capita base period, the Secretary shall—

"(i) ensure that all of the expenditures so excluded are attributable to the program under section 1932D; and

"(ii) ensure that all of the expenditures so excluded are attributable to the program under section 1932D.

"(E) BASE PERIOD FOR LATE-EXPANDING STATES.—In this section, the term 'per capita base period' means, with respect to a State, a period of 8 (or, in the case of a State selecting a period under subparagraph (D), not less than 4) consecutive fiscal quarters that begins with a fiscal quarter earlier than the first quarter of fiscal year 2017.

"(F) FEDERAL AVERAGE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE MATCHING PERCENTAGE.—In this subsection, the term "Federal average medical assistance matching percentage means, for a State for a fiscal year, the ratio (expressed as a percentage) calculated by—

"(A) the amount of the Federal payments that would be made to the State under section 1903(a)(1) for medical assistance expenditures (as defined in paragraph (5)) for calendar quarters in the fiscal year, (i) if paragraph (1) did not apply; to

"(B) the amount of the medical assistance expenditures for the State and fiscal year.

"(G) TIMELINE.—Each State shall submit its selection of a per capita base period to the Secretary not later than January 1, 2018.

"(H) PARAMETERS.—In selecting a per capita base period under this paragraph, a State shall—

"(i) only select a period of 8 (or, in the case of a State selecting a period under subparagraph (D), not less than 4) consecutive fiscal quarters that begins with a fiscal quarter earlier than the first quarter of fiscal year 2014 or ends with a fiscal quarter later than the third fiscal quarter of 2017.

"(I) BASE PERIOD FOR LATE-EXPANDING STATES.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term 'per capita base period' means, with respect to a State, a period of 8 (or, in the case of a State selecting a period under subparagraph (D), not less than 4) consecutive fiscal quarters that begins with a fiscal quarter earlier than the first quarter of fiscal year 2014 or ends with a fiscal quarter later than the third fiscal quarter of 2017.

"(ii) APPLICATION OF FURTHER REQUIREMENTS.—In selecting a per capita base period under this subsection, all other requirements of this paragraph shall apply to a per capita base period selected under this subparagraph.

"(iii) APPLICATION OF BASE PERIOD ADJUSTMENT RULES.—In this section, the term "period selected" includes a subsequent fiscal year or portion of a fiscal year if the Secretary determines that such an extension would be appropriate.

"(D) ADJUSTED TOTAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE EXPENDITURES.—Subject to subsection (g), the following shall apply:

"(i) the amount of the medical assistance expenditures (as defined in paragraph (2) and adjusted for the State and period, reduced by the amount of any excluded expenditures (as defined in paragraph (3) and adjusted under paragraph (5)) for the State and period otherwise included in such medical assistance expenditures; and

"(ii) the 1903A base period population percentage (as defined in paragraph (4)) for the State and fiscal year; unless—

"(A) only select a period of 8 (or, in the case of a State selecting a period under subparagraph (D), not less than 4) consecutive fiscal quarters that begins with a fiscal quarter earlier than the first quarter of fiscal year 2017.

"(B) the amount of the target total medical assistance expenditures (as defined in paragraph (5)) for calendar quarters in the fiscal year earlier than the first quarter of fiscal year 2017;

"(C) PARAMETERS.—In selecting a per capita base period, the Secretary shall—

"(i) ensure that all of the expenditures so excluded are attributable to the program under section 1932D; and

"(ii) ensure that all of the expenditures so excluded are attributable to the program under section 1932D.
“(c) TARGET TOTAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE EXPENDITURES.—

“(1) CALCULATION.—In this section, the term ‘target total medical assistance expenditures’ for a State for the fiscal year, the sum of the products, for each of the 1903A enrollee categories (as defined in subsection (e)(2)), of—

“(A) the target per capita medical assistance expenditures (as defined in paragraph (2)) for the enrollee category, State, and fiscal year; and

“(B) the number of 1903A enrollees for each enrollee category, State, and fiscal year, as determined under subsection (e)(4).

“(2) TARGET PER CAPITA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE EXPENDITURES.—In this subsection, the term ‘target per capita medical assistance expenditures’ means, for a 1903A enrollee category and State—

“(A) for fiscal year 2020, an amount equal to—

“(i) the provisional FY19 target per capita amount for such enrollee category (as calculated under subsection (d)(5)) for the State; increased by

“(ii) the number of 1903A enrollees for such enrollee category, State, and fiscal year, as determined under subsection (e)(4); and

“(B) for each succeeding fiscal year, an amount equal to—

“(i) the target per capita medical assistance expenditures (as defined in subparagraph (A) or this subparagraph) for the 1903A enrollee category and State for the preceding fiscal year; increased by

“(ii) the applicable annual inflation factor for that succeeding fiscal year.

“(3) APPLICABLE ANNUAL INFLATION FACTOR.—In paragraph (2), the term ‘applicable annual inflation factor’ means—

“(A) for fiscal years before 2025—

“(i) for each of the 1903A enrollee categories described in subparagraphs (C), (D), and (E) of subsection (e)(2), the percentage increase in the medical care component of the consumer price index for all urban consumers (U.S. city average) from September of the previous fiscal year to September of the fiscal year involved; and

“(ii) for each of the 1903A enrollee categories described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (e)(2), the percentage increase described in clause (i) plus 1 percentage point; and

“(B) for fiscal years after 2024, for all 1903A enrollee categories, the percentage increase in the consumer price index for all urban consumers (U.S. city average) from September of the previous fiscal year to September of the fiscal year involved.

“(4) ADJUSTMENTS TO STATE EXPENDITURES TARGETS TO PROMOTE PROGRAM EQUITY ACROSS STATES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with fiscal year 2020, the target per capita medical assistance expenditures for a 1903A enrollee category, State, and fiscal year, as determined under paragraph (2), shall be adjusted (subject to subparagraph (C)(ii)) in accordance with this paragraph.

“(B) ADJUSTMENT BASED ON LEVEL OF PER CAPITA SPENDING FOR 1903A ENROLLEE CATEGORIES.—Subject to subparagraph (C), with respect to a State, fiscal year, and 1903A enrollee category, if the State’s per capita categorical medical assistance expenditures (as defined in subparagraph (D)) for the State and category in the preceding fiscal year—

“(i) exceed the mean per capita categorical medical assistance expenditures (as defined in paragraph (2)) for the fiscal year involved, shall be reduced by a percentage that shall be determined by the Secretary which shall not be less than 0.5 percent or greater than 2 percent; or

“(ii) are less than the mean per capita categorical medical assistance expenditures for such category for the preceding fiscal year by not less than 25 percent, the Secretary’s target per capita medical assistance expenditures for such category for the fiscal year involved shall be reduced by a percentage that shall be determined by the Secretary but

“(C) RULES OF ADJUSTMENT.—

“(i) BUDGET NEUTRALITY REQUIREMENT.—In determining the appropriate percentages by which to adjust target per capita medical assistance expenditures for a category and fiscal year under this paragraph, the Secretary shall make such adjustments in a manner that does not result in a net increase in Federal payments under this section for such fiscal year, and if the Secretary cannot adjust such expenditures in such a manner there shall be no adjustment under this paragraph for such fiscal year.

“(ii) ASSUMPTION REGARDING STATE EXPENDITURES.—For purposes of clause (i), in the case of a State per capita target per capita medical assistance expenditures for a 1903A enrollee category and fiscal year increased under this paragraph, the Secretary shall assume that the ‘target per capita medical assistance expenditures’ means, with respect to a State, category, and fiscal year that are attributable to 1903A enrollees in the category.

“(iii) NONAPPLICATION TO LOW-DENSITY STATES.—This paragraph shall not apply to any State that has a population density of less than 15,000 persons per square mile, based on the most recent data available from the Bureau of the Census.

“(iv) DISREGARD OF ADJUSTMENT.—Any adjustment under this paragraph to target medical assistance expenditures for a State, 1903A enrollee category, and fiscal year shall be disregarded when determining the target medical assistance expenditures for such State and category for a succeeding year under paragraph (2).

“(v) APPLICATION FOR FISCAL YEARS 2020 AND 2021.—In fiscal years 2020 and 2021, the Secretary shall apply this paragraph by deeming all categories of 1903A enrollees to be a single category.

“(d) CALCULATION OF FY19 PROVINCIAL TARGET AMOUNT FOR EACH 1903A ENROLLEE CATEGORY.—Subject to subsection (g), the following shall apply:

“(1) CALCULATION OF BASE AMOUNTS FOR EACH 1903A ENROLLEE CATEGORY.—For each 1903A enrollee category, the Secretary shall calculate a fiscal year 2019 average per capita amount for each State equal to—

“(A) the average per capita medical assistance expenditures for the State for the State’s per capita base period (calculated under paragraph (1)(C)); increased by

“(B) the percentage increase in the medical care component of the consumer price index for all urban consumers (U.S. city average) from September of the last month of the State’s per capita base period to September of fiscal year 2019.

“(2) FISCAL YEAR 2019 AVERAGE PER CAPITA AMOUNT BASED ON INFLATING THE PER CAPITA BASE AMOUNT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019 BY CPI-MONETARY.—The Secretary shall calculate a fiscal year 2019 average per capita amount for each State equal to—

“(A) the amount calculated under subparagraph (A); divided by

“(B) the number calculated under subparagraph (B).

“(3) AGGREGATE AND AVERAGE EXPENDITURES PER CAPITA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019.—The Secretary shall calculate for each State the following:

“(A) the amount of the adjusted total medical assistance expenditures (as defined in subsection (b)(1)) for the State for fiscal year 2019; and

“(B) the number of 1903A enrollees for the State in fiscal year 2019 (as determined under subsection (e)(4)).

“(4) PER CAPITA EXPENDITURES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019 FOR EACH 1903A ENROLLEE CATEGORY.—The Secretary shall calculate (and provide notice to each State not later than January 1, 2020, of) the following:

“(A)(i) for each 1903A enrollee category, the amount of the adjusted total medical assistance expenditures (as defined in subsection (b)(1)) for the State for fiscal year 2019; and

“(ii) the number calculated under subsection (e)(4).

“(B) PER CAPITA CATEGORICAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE EXPENDITURES.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—In this paragraph, the term ‘per capita categorical medical assistance expenditures’ means, with respect to a State, 1903A enrollee category, and fiscal year, an amount equal to—

“(i) the categorical medical expenditures (as defined in clause (i)) for the State, category, and year; divided by

“(ii) the number of 1903A enrollees for the State, category, and year;

“(III) CATEGORICAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE EXPENDITURES.—The term ‘categorical medical assistance expenditures’ means, with respect to a State, category, and fiscal year, an amount equal to the total medical assistance expenditures (as defined in paragraph (2)) for the State and fiscal year that are attributable to enrollees in the category, excluding any excluded expenditures (as defined in paragraph (3)) for the State and fiscal year that are attributable to enrollees in the category.

“(IV) complies with the limits for additional payments made to providers under the plan or waiver, including section 1151 for the purposes of funding a delivery system reform pool, uncompensated care system reform pool, uncompensated care system reform pool, state Health program, or any other similar expenditure (as defined by the Secretary).

“(B) For each 1903A enrollee category, the number of 1903A enrollees in the consumer price index for all urban consumers (U.S. city average) from September of fiscal year 2019 in the enrollee category (as determined under subsection (e)(4)).
“(C) For the State’s per capita base period, the State’s non-DSH supplemental and pool payment percentage is equal to the ratio (expressed as a percentage) of—

(i) the amount of non-DSH supplemental expenditures (as defined in subparagraph (A)(i)) and adjusted under subparagraph (B) and payments described in subparagraph (A)(ii) of section 1905(a)(10); and

(ii) the amount of non-DSH supplemental and pool payment percentage for the State (as calculated under subparagraph (C)); divided by

(iii) the number calculated under subparagraph (B) for the State for the enrollee category.

(E) For purposes of subparagraph (C)(i), in calculating the total amount of non-DSH supplemental expenditures and payments described in subparagraph (A)(iii) for a State for the per capita base period, the total amount of such expenditures and the total amount of such payments for the State and base period shall each be divided by 2.

5. Provisional FY19 per Capita Target Amount for Each 1903A Enrollee Category—

Subject to subsection (f)(2), the Secretary shall calculate for each State a provisional FY19 per capita target amount for each 1903A enrollee category equal to the average medical assistance expenditures per capita for the State for fiscal year 2019 (as calculated under paragraph (4)(D)) for such enrollee category multiplied by the ratio of—

(A) Required of—

(i) the fiscal year 2019 average per capita amount for the State, as calculated under paragraph (2); and

(ii) the number of 1903A enrollees for the State in fiscal year 2019, as calculated under paragraph (3)(B); to

(B) the amount of the adjusted total medical assistance expenditures for the State for fiscal year 2019, as calculated under paragraph (3)(A).

6. 1903A Enrollee; 1903A Enrollee Category—

(a) 1903A enrollees—In paragraph (2), the term ‘1903A enrollee’ means—

(i) each individual for which payment is made under the section 1902(a) underlying title of this title (or a waiver only for some or all of medical care cost-sharing (as defined in section 1903(a)(19)) or

(ii) is eligible for medical assistance under this title and for whom the State is providing a payment or subsidy to an employer for coverage of the individual under a group health plan pursuant to section 1906A of title XXI.

(b) Special Payment Rules—The term ‘1903A enrollee’ category means each of the following:

(A) Elderly—A category of 1903A enrollees who are 65 years of age or older.

(B) Blind and Disabled—A category of 1903A enrollees who are—

(i) 19 years of age or older; and

(ii) eligible for medical assistance under this title on the basis of being blind or disabled.

(C) Blind and Disabled Children—A category of 1903A enrollees who are—

(i) a child under 19 years of age; and

(ii) eligible for medical assistance under this title on the basis of being blind or disabled.

(D) Children—A category of 1903A enrollees who are—

(i) 19 years of age or older; and

(ii) eligible for medical assistance under this title on the basis of being blind or disabled.

(E) Other Nondisabled, Nondisabled, Non-Expansion Adults—A category of 1903A enrollees who are not described in any previous subparagraph.

(F) Medicare Enrollee—The term ‘Medicare enrollee’ means, with respect to a State, any individual who is eligible for medical assistance for items and services under title and enrolled under the State plan (or a waiver of such plan) under this title for the month.

(G) Recalculation of Certain Amounts for Data Errors—Not later than January 1, 2025, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report—

(i) data on the number of 1903A enrollees for a State for the fiscal year ending in 2019; and

(ii) data on the amount of non-DSH payments and expenditures described in subparagraph (A)(iii) for a State for the fiscal year ending in 2019.

For data errors—The amounts and percentage calculated under paragraphs (1) and (4)(C) of section 1903A enrollee’s per capita base period, and the amounts of the adjusted total medical assistance expenditures calculated under subsection (b) and the number of Medicaid enrollees for the State, as calculated under subsection (e)(4) for a State’s per capita base period, fiscal year 2019, and any subsequent fiscal year, may be adjusted by the Secretary based on—

(A) data errors;

(B) the manner and time, and containing such information relating to data errors that support such appeal, as the Secretary specifies; that the Secretary determines to be valid, except that any adjustment by the Secretary under this subpart for a fiscal year may not lead to an increase of the target total medical assistance expenditures exceeding 2 percent.

5. Required Reporting; Transitional Increase in Federal Matching Percentage for Certain Administrative Expenses—

(a) Auditing of CMS-64 Data—The Secretary shall conduct for each State an audit of the number of individuals and expenditures reported through the CMS-64 report for the State’s per capita base period, fiscal year 2019, and each subsequent fiscal year, which audit may be conducted on a representative sample (as determined by the Secretary).

(b) Inspecting of State Audit—If the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services shall conduct an audit (which shall be conducted using random sampling and as determined by the Inspector General) of each State’s spending under this section not less than once every 3 years.

(c) Temporary Increase in Federal Matching Percentage to Support Improved Data Reporting Systems for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019—In the case of any State that selects as its per capita base period the most recent 8 consecutive quarter period for which the data necessary to make the determinations required under this section is available, for amounts expended during calendar quarters beginning on October 1, 2017, and before October 1, 2019—

(A) the Federal matching percentage applied under section 1903(a)(3)(A)(i) shall be increased by 10 percentage points to 100 percent; and

(B) the Federal matching percentage applied under section 1903(a)(3)(B) shall be increased by 25 percentage points to 100 percent.

(d) IHS Report on Adoption of T-MHS Data—Not later than January 1, 2023, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report making recommendations as to whether data from the Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System would be beneficial for improving the accuracy and efficiency of Federal payments to Native American Health Service providers.
Information System would be preferable to CMS–64 report data for purposes of making the determinations necessary under this section.

(b) Ensuring Access to Home and Community Based Services.—Section 1915 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(1) In general.—The Secretary shall establish a demonstration project (referred to in this subsection as the 'demonstration project') under which eligible States may make HCBS payment adjustments for the purpose of continuing to provide and improving the quality of home and community-based services provided under a waiver under subsection (c) or (d) or a State plan amendment under subsection (i).

(2) Selection of eligible states.—

"(A) Application.—A State seeking to participate in the demonstration project shall submit to the Secretary, at such time and in such manner as the Secretary shall require, an application that includes—

"(i) an assurance that any HCBS payment adjustment made by the State under this subsection and under the demonstration project shall not exceed $8,000,000,000.

"(ii) such other information and assurances as the Secretary shall require.

(B) Selection.—The Secretary shall select States to participate in the demonstration project on a competitive basis except that, in making selections under this paragraph, the Secretary shall give priority to any State that is one of the 15 States in the United States with the lowest population density, as determined by the Secretary based on data from the Bureau of the Census.

(C) Demonstration project.—The demonstration project shall be conducted for the 4-year period beginning on January 1, 2020, and ending on December 31, 2023.

"(3) State allotments and increased FMAP for payment adjustments.—

"(A) In general.—

"(i) Annual allotment.—Subject to clause (ii), for each year of the demonstration project, the Secretary shall allot an amount to each State that is an eligible State for the year.

"(ii) Limitation on Federal spending.—The aggregate amount that may be allotted to eligible States under clause (i) for all years of the demonstration project shall not exceed $8,000,000,000.

"(B) FMAP applicable to HCBS payment adjustments.—For each year of the demonstration project, notwithstanding section 1905(b) but subject to the limitations described in subparagraph (C), the Federal medical assistance percentage applicable with respect to HCBS payment adjustments shall be equal to (and shall in no case exceed) 100 percent.

"(C) Payment and allotment limitations.—Payment under section 1902(a) shall not be made to an eligible State for expenditures for a year that are attributable to an HCBS payment adjustment.

"(i) that is paid to a single provider and exceeds a percentage which shall be established by the Secretary of the payment otherwise made to the provider; or

"(ii) to the extent that the aggregate amount of HCBS payment adjustments made by the State in the year exceeds the amount allotted to the State for the year under clause (i).

"(D) Reporting and Evaluation.—

"(i) In general.—As a condition of receiving the increased Federal medical assistance percentage described in paragraph (4)(B), each eligible State shall collect and report information prescribed by the Secretary, for the purposes of providing Federal oversight and evaluating the State's compliance with the health and welfare and financial accountability safeguards taken by the State under subsection (c)(2)(A).

"(B) Forms.—Expenditures by eligible States on HCBS payment adjustments shall be separately reported on the CMS–64 Form and in T-MSIS.

"(6) Definitions.—In this subsection:

"(A) Eligible state.—The term 'eligible State' means—

"(i) one of the 50 States or the District of Columbia;

"(ii) has in effect—

"(I) a waiver under subsection (c) or (d); or

"(II) a State plan amendment under subsection (i);

"(iii) submits an application under paragraph (2)(A); and

"(iv) is selected by the Secretary to participate in the demonstration project.

"(B) HCBS payment adjustment.—The term 'HCBS payment adjustment' means an adjustment made by an eligible State to the amount of payment otherwise provided under a waiver under subsection (c) or (d) or a State plan amendment under section (i) for a home and community-based service which is provided to a 1903A enrollee (as defined in section 1903A(e)(1)) who is in the enrollee category described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 1903A(e)(2).

SEC. 128. FLEXIBLE BLOCK GRANT OPTION FOR STATES.

Title XIV of the Social Security Act, as previously amended, is further amended by inserting after section 1903A the following new section:

"SEC. 1903B. MEDICAID FLEXIBILITY PROGRAM.

"(a) In general.—Beginning with fiscal year 2020, any State (as defined in subsection (e)) that has an application approved by the Secretary under subsection (b) may conduct a Medicaid Flexibility Program to provide targeted health assistance to program enrollees.

"(b) State application.—

"(1) In general.—To be eligible to conduct a Medicaid Flexibility Program, a State shall submit an application to the Secretary that meets the requirements of this subsection.

"(2) Contents of application.—An application under this subsection shall include the following:

"(A) A description of the proposed Medicaid Flexibility Program and how the State will satisfy the requirements described in subsection (c);

"(B) The proposed conditions for eligibility of program enrollees.

"(C) The applicable program enrollee category (as defined in subsection (e));

"(D) A description of the types, amount, duration, and scope of services which will be offered as targeted health assistance under the program, including a description of the proposed package of services which will be provided to program enrollees to whom the State would otherwise be required to make medical assistance available under section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii).

"(E) A description of how the State will notify individuals currently enrolled in the State plan for medical assistance under this title of the transition to such program.

"(F) Statements certifying that the State agrees to—

"(i) submit regular enrollment data with respect to the program to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require;

"(ii) submit timely and accurate data to the Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System (T-MSIS)

"(iii) report annually to the Secretary on adult health quality measures implemented under the program and information on the number of Medicaid enrollees under the program who are part of the annual report required under section 1139B(d)(4).

A submission of additional data and information not described in any of the preceding clauses of this subparagraph but which the Secretary determines is necessary for monitoring, evaluation, or program integrity purposes, including—

"(I) survey data, such as the data from Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) surveys;

"(II) birth certificate data; and

"(III) clinical patient data for quality measurements which may not be present in a claim, such as laboratory data, body mass index, and blood pressure;

"(v) on an annual basis, conduct a report evaluating the program and make such report available to the public.

"(G) An information technology systems plan demonstrating that the State has the capacity to support the technological administration of the program and comply with reporting requirements under this section.

"(H) A statement of the goals of the proposed program, which shall include—

"(i) goals related to quality, access, rate of growth targets, consumer satisfaction, and outcomes;

"(ii) a plan for monitoring and evaluating the program to determine whether such goals are being met;

"(iii) a proposed process for the State, in consultation with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, to take remedial action to make progress on unmet goals.

"(I) Such other information as the Secretary may require.

"(3) State notice and comment period.—

"(A) In general.—Before submitting an application under this subsection, a State shall make the application publicly available for a 30 day notice and comment period.

"(B) Notice and comment.—During the notice and comment period described in subparagraph (A), the State shall provide opportunities for a meaningful public input, which shall include public hearings on the proposed Medicaid Flexibility Program.

"(4) Federal notice and comment period.—The Secretary shall not approve of any application to conduct a Medicaid Flexibility Program without making such application publicly available for a 30 day notice and comment period.

"(5) Timeline for submission.—

"(A) In general.—A State may submit an application under this subsection to conduct a Medicaid Flexibility Program that would begin in the next fiscal year at any time, subject to subparagraph (B).

"(B) Deadlines.—Each year beginning with 2019, the Secretary shall specify a deadline for submitting an application under this subsection to conduct a Medicaid Flexibility Program, which shall be published in the Federal Register.

"(C) Financing.—

"(i) In general.—For each fiscal year during which a State is conducting a Medicaid Flexibility Program, the State shall receive, instead of amounts otherwise payable to the State under this title for medical assistance.
for program enrollees, the amount specified in paragraph (3)(A).

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The block grant amount under subsection (A) for a State and year shall be equal to the sum of the amounts determined under subparagraph (B) for each 1903A enrollee category within the applicable program enrollee category for the State and year.

"(B) ENROLLEE CATEGORY AMOUNTS.—

"(i) FOR INITIAL YEAR.—Subject to subparagraph (B) for the fiscal year in which a 1903A enrollee category is included in the applicable program enrollee category for a Medicaid Flexibility Program conducted by the State, the amount determined under this subparagraph for the State, year, and category shall be equal to the Federal average medical assistance percentage defined in section 1903A(a)(4)(B) for the State and year multiplied by the product of—

"(I) the target per capita medical assistance expenditures (as defined in section 1903A(c)(2)) for the State, year, and category; and

"(II) the number of 1903A enrollees in such category for the State for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year involved (determined using the best available data from the Bureau of the Census).

"(ii) FOR ANY SUBSEQUENT YEAR.—For any fiscal year that is not the first fiscal year in which a 1903A enrollee category is included in the applicable program enrollee category for a Medicaid Flexibility Program conducted by the State, the block grant amount under this paragraph for the State, year, and category shall be equal to the amount determined under this subparagraph for the most recent previous fiscal year in which the State conducted a Medicaid Flexibility Program that included such category, except that such amount shall be increased by the percentage increase in the consumer price index for all urban consumers (U.S. city average) from April of the second fiscal year preceding the fiscal year involved to April of the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year involved.

"(C) CAP ON TOTAL POPULATION OF 1903A ENROLLEES FOR PURPOSES OF BLOCK GRANT CALCULATION.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—In calculating the amount of payments made under this paragraph for the first fiscal year in which a 1903A enrollee category is included in the applicable program enrollee category for a Medicaid Flexibility Program conducted by the State, the total number of 1903A enrollees in such 1903A enrollee category for the State and year shall not exceed the adjusted number of enrollees for the State (as defined in clause (ii)).

"(ii) ADJUSTED NUMBER OF BASE PERIOD ENROLLEES.—The term "adjusted number of base period enrollees" with respect to a State and 1903A enrollee category, the number of 1903A enrollees in the enrollee category for the State for the State’s per capita base period (as determined under section 1903A(a)(4)), increased by the percentage increase, if any, in the total State population from the last April in the State’s per capita base period to April of the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year involved (determined using the best available data from the Bureau of the Census) plus 3 percentage points.

"(3) FEDERAL PAYMENT AND STATE MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—

"(A) FEDERAL PAYMENT.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall pay to each State conducting a Medicaid Flexibility Program under this section for a fiscal year, from its block grant amount under paragraph (2) for such year, an amount for each quarter of such year equal to the Federal average medical assistance percentage (as defined in section 1903A(a)(4)) of the total amount expended under the program during such quarter as targeted health assistance, and the State is responsible for the balance of the funds to carry out such program.

"(B) STATE MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT EXPENDITURES.—For each fiscal year during which a State is conducting a Medicaid Flexibility Program, the State shall make expenditures for targeted health assistance under the program in an amount equal to the product of—

"(i) the block grant amount determined for the State and year under paragraph (2); and

"(ii) the enhanced FMAP described in the first sentence of section 2105(b) for the State and year.

"(C) REDUCTION IN BLOCK GRANT AMOUNT FOR STATES FAILING TO MEET MOR REQUIREMENT.—

"(I) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a State conducting a Medicaid Flexibility Program that makes expenditures for targeted health assistance under the program for a fiscal year in an amount that is less than the required amount determined under subparagraph (B), the amount of the block grant determined for the State under paragraph (2) for the fiscal year shall be reduced by the amount by which such expenditures are less than such required amount.

"(II) DISREGARD OF REDUCTION.—For purposes of determining the amount of a State block grant under paragraph (2), any reduction made under this subparagraph to a State’s block grant amount in a previous fiscal year shall be disregarded.

"(III) APPLICATION TO STATES THAT TERMINATE PROGRAM.—In the case of a State described in clause (i) that terminates the State Medicaid Flexibility Program under subsection (d)(2)(B) and such termination is effective with the end of the fiscal year of equal length to the portion of a fiscal year of equal length to the portion of the most recent previous fiscal year in which the State conducted a Medicaid Flexibility Program by making an election under subparagraph (B), the reduction amount determined for the State and succeeding fiscal year under clause (i) shall be treated as an overpayment for purposes of determining the amount of a State block grant under paragraph (2).

"(D) REDUCTION FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the Secretary determines that a State conducting a Medicaid Flexibility Program is not in compliance with the requirements of this section, the Secretary may withhold payments, reduce payments, or recover previous payments to the State under this section as the Secretary determines.

"(E) ADDITIONAL FEDERAL PAYMENTS DURING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a State and fiscal year during which the Secretary has excluded expenditures under section 1903A(b)(6), if the State has uncompensated targeted health assistance expenditures under section 1903A(b)(6)(A)(i) for the fiscal year or portion of a fiscal year, the Secretary may make an additional amount equal to the amount of such expenditures for the fiscal year or portion of a fiscal year for which the Secretary has excluded expenditures for purposes of determining the amount of the block grant for the State under paragraph (2) for such year or portion of a year.

"(ii) APPROVAL OF PROGRAM.—The additional amount described in clause (i) shall be subject to termination only if such expenditures for the State’s Medicaid Flexibility Program for the fiscal year or portion of a fiscal year exceed 15 percent of the block grant for the State for the first year of such fiscal year or portion of a fiscal year.

"(ii) AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS.—In this subparagraph, the term ‘uncompensated targeted health assistance expenditures’ means, with respect to a State and year, the amount equal to the amount (if any) by which—

"(I) the total amount expended by the State under the program for targeted health assistance for the year or portion of a year; exceeds

"(II) the amount equal to the amount of the block grant (reduced, in the case of a portion of a year, to the same proportion of the full block grant amount that the portion of the year bears to the whole year) divided by the Federal average medical assistance percentage for the year or portion of a year.

"(IV) REVIEW.—If the Secretary makes a payment to a State for a fiscal year or portion of a fiscal year, the Secretary shall make such a payment no later than 6 months after the declaration described in section 1903A(b)(6)(A)(i) ceases to be in effect, conduct an audit of the State’s targeted health assistance expenditures for program enrollees during the year or portion of a year to ensure that all of the expenditures for which the additional payment was made were made for the purpose of ensuring that the health care needs of program enrollees in areas affected by a public health emergency are met.

"(V) DETERMINATION AND PUBLICATION OF BLOCK GRANT AMOUNT.—Beginning in 2019 and each year thereafter, the Secretary shall determine for each State, regardless of whether the State is conducting a Medicaid Flexibility Program or has submitted an application to conduct such a program, the amount of the block grant for the State under paragraph (2) which would apply for the upcoming fiscal year if the State were to conduct such a program in such fiscal year, and shall publish such determinations not later than January 1 of each year.

"(V) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A State Medicaid Flexibility Program approved under section 1903A(a)(4).
program period in which the State makes the election.

(ii) TRANSITION PLAN REQUIREMENT.—A State may not elect to terminate a Medicaid Flexibility Program that has, in place an appropriate transition plan approved by the Secretary.

(iii) EFFECT OF TERMINATION.—If a State elects to terminate a Medicaid Flexibility Program, the per capita cap limitations under section 1903A shall apply effective with the day described in clause (i), and such limitations shall be applied as if the State had never conducted a Medicaid Flexibility Program.

1. Provision of Targeted Health Assistance.

(A) IN GENERAL.—A State Medicaid Flexibility Program shall provide targeted health assistance, and such assistance shall be instead of medical assistance which would otherwise be provided to the enrollees under this title.

(B) CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—A State conducting a Medicaid Flexibility Program shall establish conditions for eligibility of program enrollees, which may be different from other conditions for eligibility under this title, except that the program must provide for eligibility for program enrollees to whom the State would otherwise be required to make medical assistance available under section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i).

(ii) MAG-Any determination of income necessary to establish the eligibility of a program enrollee for purposes of a State Medicaid Flexibility Program shall be made using modified adjusted gross income in accordance with section 1902(e)(14).

(C) BENEFITS AND SERVICES.—

(A) REQUIRED SERVICES.—In the case of program enrollees to whom the State would otherwise be required to make medical assistance available under section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i), a State conducting a Medicaid Flexibility Program shall provide as targeted health assistance the following types of services:

(1) Inpatient and outpatient hospital services.

(2) Laboratory and X-ray services.

(3) Nursing facility services for individuals aged 21 and older.

(4) Single practitioner services.

(5) Home health care services (including home nursing services, medical supplies, equipment and supplies).

(6) Rural health clinic services (as defined in section 1905(i)(1)).

(7) Federally-qualified health center services (as defined in section 1905(i)(2)).

(8) Family planning services and supplies.

(9) Nurse midwife services.

(10) Maternal and child health services.

(B) OPTIONAL SERVICES.—In the case of any State conducting a Medicaid Flexibility Program, the State may provide as additional optional services:

(1) Freestanding birth center services (as defined in section 1905(i)(3)).

(2) Emergency medical transportation.

(3) Non-cosmetic dental services.

(4) Pregnancy-related services, including postpartum services for the 12-week period beginning on the last day of a pregnancy.

(B) OPTIONAL BENEFITS.—A State may, at its option, provide services in addition to the services described in subparagraph (A) as targeted health assistance under a Medicaid Flexibility Program.

(C) BENEFIT PACKAGES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The targeted health assistance provided by a State to any group of program enrollees under a Medicaid Flexibility Program shall have an aggregate actuarial value of at least 95 percent of the aggregate actuarial value of the benchmark coverage described in subsection (b)(1) of section 1937 or benchmark-equivalent coverage described in subsection (b)(2) of such section, as such subsections were in effect prior to the enactment of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

(ii) AMOUNT, DURATION, AND SCOPE OF BENEFITS.—Subject to clause (i), the State shall determine the amount, duration, and scope of targeted health assistance under a Medicaid Flexibility Program, including with respect to services that are required to be provided to program enrollees under this title pursuant to subparagraph (A) except as otherwise provided under such subparagraph.

(iii) MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER COVERAGE AND PARITY.—The targeted health assistance provided by a State to program enrollees under a Medicaid Flexibility Program shall include mental health and substance use disorder services and the financial requirements and treatment limitations applicable to such services under the program shall comply with the requirements of section 2726 of the Public Health Service Act in the same manner as such requirements apply to a group health plan.

(iv) PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.—If the targeted health assistance provided by a State to program enrollees under a Medicaid Flexibility Program includes covered outpatient drugs, such drugs shall be subject to a rebate agreement that complies with the requirements of section 1927, and any requirements applicable to medical assistance for covered outpatient drugs under a State plan (including the requirement that the State provide information to a manufacturer) shall apply in the same manner to targeted health assistance for covered outpatient drugs under a Medicaid Flexibility Program.

(v) COST SHARING.—A State conducting a Medicaid Flexibility Program may impose premiums, deductibles, cost-sharing, or other similar charges, except that the total annual aggregate amount of all such charges imposed with respect to all program enrollees in a family shall not exceed 5 percent of the family’s income for the year involved.

(vi) ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM.—Each State conducting a Medicaid Flexibility Program shall do the following:

(A) SINGLE AGENCY.—Designate a single State agency responsible for administering the program.

(B) ENROLLMENT SIMPLIFICATION AND COORDINATION WITH STATE HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETS.—Provide for simplified enrollment processes (such as online enrollment and reenrollment and electronic verification) and coordination with State health insurance exchanges.

(C) BENEFICIARY PROTECTIONS.—Establish a fair process for determining eligibility and appeals determinations with respect to the program.

(D) APPLICATION OF REST OF TITLE XIX.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that a provision of this section is inconsistent with another provision of this title, the provision of this section shall apply.

(B) APPLICATION OF SECTION 1903.—With respect to a State that is conducting a Medicaid Flexibility Program, section 1903 shall be applied as if program enrollees were not 1903A enrollees for each program period during which the State conducts the program.

(C) WAIVERS AND STATE PLAN AMENDMENTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a State conducting a Medicaid Flexibility Program, any waiver or amendment which was limited pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall cease to be so limited effective with the effective date of such termination.

(ii) NONAPPLICATION OF PROVISIONS.—With respect to the design and implementation of Medicaid Flexibility Programs conducted under this section, paragraphs (1), (10)(B), (17), and (23) of section 1902(a), as well as any other provision of this title (except for this section and as otherwise provided by this section) that the Secretary deems appropriate, shall not apply.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

(A) APPLICABLE PROGRAM ENROLLEE CATEGORY.—The term ‘applicable program enrollee category’ means, with respect to a State Medicaid Flexibility Program for a period, any category of enrollees specified by the State for the period in its application under subsection (b).

(B) EXPANSION ENROLLEES.—The 1903A enrollee category described in subparagraph (D) of section 1903(a)(1).

(C) NONELIGIBLE, NONDISABLED, NONEXCEPTION ADULTS.—The 1903A enrollee category described in subparagraph (D) of section 1903(a)(2).

(D) MEDICAID FLEXIBILITY PROGRAM.—The term ‘Medicaid Flexibility Program’ means a State program for providing targeted health assistance to program enrollees funded by a block grant under this section.

(E) PROGRAM ENROLLEE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘program enrollee’ means, with respect to a State that is conducting a Medicaid Flexibility Program for a program period, an individual who is a 1903A enrollee (as defined in section 1903(a)(1)) who is eligible for, and enrolled in an applicable program enrollee category specified by the State for the period.

(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of section 1903(a)(3), eligibility and enrollment of an individual under a Medicaid Flexibility Program shall be deemed to be eligibility and enrollment under a State plan (or waiver of such plan) under this title.

(F) PERIOD.—The term ‘program period’ means, with respect to a State Medicaid Flexibility Program, a period of 5 consecutive fiscal years that begins with either:

(A) The first fiscal year in which the State conducts the program.

(B) The next fiscal year in which the State conducts such a program that begins after the end of the previous program period.

(2) SEC. 129. MEDICAID AND CHIP QUALITY PERFORMANCE BONUS PAYMENTS.

Section 1903 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b), as previously amended, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:
(b) QUALITY PERFORMANCE BONUS PAYMENTS.—

(1) INCREASED FEDERAL SHARE.—With respect to each of fiscal years 2023 through 2026, for purposes of the 50 States and the District of Columbia (each referred to in this subsection as a ‘State’)—

(A) equals or exceeds the qualifying amount established by the Secretary for the State for the fiscal year determined in section 1903A(c)(1) without regard to the 1903A enrollee category described in section 1903A(e)(2)(E).”.

SEC. 130. OPTIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN ELIGIBLE INDIANS.

(a) STATUTORY OPTION.—Section 1905 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(ii) by striking “(A)” and inserting “(B);” and

(B) by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “, and (C) subject to subsection (b)(4) or paragraph (4) for that fiscal year;” and

(ii) a plan for spending a portion of additional funds resulting from application of this subsection on quality improvement within the State plan or a waiver of such plan; and

(iii) the Federal matching percentage required otherwise applied under subsection (a)(7) for such fiscal year determined in such paragraph (as determined by the Secretary) so that the aggregate amount of the resulting increase pursuant to the plan described in such paragraph (if any) by which—

(A) to medical assistance under subsection (a)(16)(C) the State must (during the period in which it furnishes medical assistance to an individual) that—

(B) may provide for continued certification if the applicable authority finds this part; and

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to quality improvement projects certified if the applicable authority finds that the small business health plan involved

SEC. 132. SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH PLANS.

(a) TAX TREATMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH PLANS.—A State health plan (as defined in section 6801(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974) shall be treated—

(1) as a group health plan (as defined in section 2701 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-91)) for purposes of applying title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 2001 et seq.) and title XXII of such Act (42 U.S.C. 200b-1); and

(b) RULES.—Subtitle B of title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) is amended by adding the following:

“PART 8—RULES GOVERNING SMALL BUSINESS RISK SHARING POOLS

SEC. 801. SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH PLANS

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this part, the term ‘small business health plan’ means a fully insured group health plan, offered by a health insurance issuer in the large group market whose sponsor is described in subsection (b).

(b) RULES.—Subtitle B of title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1191b) is amended by adding the following:

“PART 8.—RULES GOVERNING SMALL BUSINESS RISK SHARING POOLS

SEC. 802. FILING FEE AND CERTIFICATION OF SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH PLANS.

(a) FILING FEE.—A small business health plan shall pay to the Secretary at the time of filing an application for certification under subsection (b) a filing fee in the amount of $5,000, which shall be available to the Secretary for the sole purpose of administering the certification procedures applicable with respect to small business health plans.

(b) RULES.—Subsection (a) of section 801(b) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1191b(a)(1)) for purposes of applying parts 6 and 7 of title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), and the Secretary shall—

(1) in a qualified sponsor and receives certification from the Secretary;
Section 808. Participation and Coverage Requirements.

(a) Covered Employers and Individuals.—The requirements of this subsection are met with respect to a small business health plan if, under the terms of the plan, no participating employer may provide health insurance coverage in the individual market for any employee not covered under the plan, if such exclusion of the employee from coverage under the plan is based on a health status-related factor with respect to the employee and such employee would, but for such exclusion on such basis, be eligible for coverage under the plan; and

(b) Information regarding all coverage options available under the plan is made readily available to any employee eligible to participate.

SEC. 804. Definitions; Renewal.

For purposes of this part:

(1) Affiliated Member.—The term 'affiliated member' means, in connection with a plan—

(A) a person who is otherwise eligible to be a member of the sponsor but who elects an affiliated status with the sponsor, or

(B) in the case of a sponsor with members which consist of associations, a person who is a member of such an association and elects an affiliated status with the sponsor.

(2) Applicable State Authority.—The term 'applicable State authority' means—

(A) the State involved with respect to such health plan; and

(B) the dependents of individuals described in subparagraph (A).

(3) Bonding Requirements.—The requirements for certified plan sponsors that include requirements regarding—

(A) structure and requirements for boards of trustees or trustees;

(B) notification of material changes; and

(C) notification for voluntary termination.

(4) Health Plan Terms.—The terms 'franchisee' and 'franchisor' have the meanings given such terms for purposes of sections 362(a) through 362(c) of title 16, Code of Federal Regulations (including any such amendments to such regulation after the date of enactment of this part) and, for purposes of this part, franchise or franchisor means, with respect to a plan, such plan's sponsor.

(5) Individual Market.—(A) In general.—The term 'individual market' means the market for health insurance coverage offered to individuals other than in connection with a group health plan.

(B) Treatment of very small groups.—(i) In general.—Subject to clause (ii), such term includes coverage offered in connection with a group health plan that has fewer than 2 participants as current employees or former employees.

(ii) State exception.—Clause (i) shall not apply in the case of health insurance coverage offered for the period beginning on or after January 1, 2019, to 5 to 10 adults (consistent with section 270(c)) or other individuals commencing coverage under this part must be—

(6) Participating Employer.—The term 'participating employer' means, in connection with a small business health plan, any employer, if any individual who is an employee of such participating employer is a member of the sponsor or an affiliated member of the sponsor, or a self-employed individual who is such employer with or without employees (or any dependent, as defined under the terms of the plan) of such individual) is or was covered under such plan in connection with the status of such individual as such an employee, partner, or self-employed individual in relation to the plan.

SEC. 706. Organization.

The term 'section 7705 organization' means an organization providing services for a customer pursuant to a contract meeting the conditions of subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), (D), and (E) (but not (F)) of section 7705(e)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, including an entity that is part of a section 7705 organization control group. For purposes of this part, any reference to 'member' shall include a customer of a section 7705 organization except with respect to references to a 'member' or 'members' in paragraph (1).
ratio for adults (consistent with section 2707(c)) as the State may determine.”

SEC. 204. WAIVERS FOR STATE INNOVATION.

(a) In General.—Section 1332 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18052) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1) (I),

(i) by inserting “or such section” before “under such section,”; and

(ii) by amending clause (i) to read as follows:

“(I) by striking ‘‘may’’ and inserting ‘‘shall’’; and

(II) by striking ‘‘only if’’ and inserting ‘‘unless’’; and

(iii) by striking “plan—” and all that follows through the period at the end of subparagraph (D) and inserting “application is missing a required element under subsection (a)(1) or that the State plan will increase the Federal deficit, or taking into account any amounts received through a grant under subsection (a)(3)(B);”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by inserting “or in such section” before “under such section,”; and

(ii) by amending subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the subparagraph heading, by striking “‘of opt out’”; and

(II) by striking “may repeal a law” and all that follows through the end of subparagraph (A) and inserting the following: “may terminate the authority provided under the waiver with respect to the State by—

(i) repealing a law described in subparagraph (A); or

(ii) terminating a certification described in subparagraph (A), through a certification for such termination signed by the Governor, the State insurance commissioner, of the State, that provides authority for State actions under a waiver under this section, including the implementation of the State plan under subsection (a)(3);”;

(iii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the subparagraph heading, by striking “application is pending in the period” and inserting “application is pending in the period”;

(II) by striking “shall” and all that follows through the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting “shall” before “after the authority provided under the waiver with respect to the State by—

(i) repealing a law described in subparagraph (A); or

(ii) terminating a certification described in subparagraph (A), through a certification for such termination signed by the Governor, the State insurance commissioner, of the State, that provides authority for State actions under a waiver under this section, including the implementation of the State plan under subsection (a)(3);”;

(iv) by striking “With respect” and inserting the following:

“(A) PASS THROUGH OF FUNDING—With respect;” and

(v) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) ADDITIONAL FUNDING—There is appropriated to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, out of monies in the Treasury not otherwise obligated, $2,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2015, to remain available until the end of fiscal year 2019, to provide grants to States for purposes of submitting an application for a waiver granted under this section and implementing the State plan under such waiver.

(C) AUTHORITY TO USE MARKET-BASED HEALTH CARE GRANT ALLOCATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury has an application for an allotment under section 2105(c) of the Social Security Act for the plan year, the State may use the funds appropriated for the plan year to carry out the State plan under this section, so long as such use is consistent with the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 2105(c) of such Act (other than paragraph (1)(B) of such section). Any funds used to carry out a State plan under this subparagraph shall not be considered in determining whether the State plan increases the Federal deficit.”;

(C) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end the following:

“(D) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The Secretary shall establish an expedited application and approval process that may be used if the Secretary determines that such expedited process is necessary to respond to an urgent or emergency situation with respect to health insurance coverage within a State.”;

(b) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), (2), and (3),

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(1) by striking “must” and inserting “may”; and

(2) by striking “may” and inserting “shall”;

(3) in paragraph (2) and (3), by striking “or such section” before “under such section,”;

(4) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “the reasons therefore” and inserting “and the reasons therefore, and provide the data on which such determination was made”;

(5) in subsection (b)(3), by striking “shall” and all that follows through the period at the end of subparagraph (A) and inserting “may” before “after the authority provided under the waiver with respect to the State by—

(i) repealing a law described in subparagraph (A); or

(ii) terminating a certification described in subparagraph (A), through a certification for such termination signed by the Governor, the State insurance commissioner, of the State, that provides authority for State actions under a waiver under this section, including the implementation of the State plan under subsection (a)(3);”;

(2) by striking “or in such section 1303 after this part” and inserting “or in such section 1303 after this part”;

(b) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraphs (1) and (2)(A), by inserting “section 1303 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act” after “this part”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and of section 1303 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act” after “this part”.; and

(c) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “The effects of” and inserting “The effects of”.; and

(d) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “for” and inserting “for”.

SEC. 205. ALLOWING ALL INDIVIDUALS PURCHASING HEALTH INSURANCE IN THE INDIVIDUAL MARKET THE OPTION TO PURCHASE A LOWER PREMIUM CATASTROPHIC PLAN.

(a) In General.—Section 1303(e) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18022(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) CONSUMER FREEDOM.—For plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2019, paragraph (1)(A) shall not apply with respect to any plan offered in the State.”;

(b) Risk Pools.—Section 1321(c) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18032(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and including, with respect to plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2019, enrollees in catastrophic plans described in section 1302(e)” after “Exchange”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and including, with respect to plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2019, enrollees in catastrophic plans described in section 1302(e)” after “Exchange”.

SEC. 206. APPLICATION OF ENFORCEMENT PENALTIES.

(a) In General.—Section 2723 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-22) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and of section 1303 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act” after “this part”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or in such section 1303 after this part”; and

(c) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraphs (1) and (2)(A), by inserting “section 1303 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act” after “this part”;

(B) in paragraph (2)(C)(ii), by inserting “section 1303 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act” after “this part”; and

Sec. 207. FUNDING FOR COST-SHARING PAYMENTS.

There is appropriated to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary for payments for cost-sharing reductions authorized by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (including adjustments to any prior obligations for such payments) for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on December 31, 2019. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, payments and other actions for adjustments to any obligations incurred for plan years 2018 and 2019 may be made through December 31, 2020.

SEC. 208. REPEAL OF COST-SHARING SUBSIDY PROGRAM.

(a) In General.—Section 1402 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is repealed.

(b) Effective Date.—The repeal made by subsection (a) shall apply to cost-sharing reductions (and payments to issuers for such reductions) for plan years beginning after December 31, 2019.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Mr. Bruce King, Charlie Ellsworth, Veronica Escobar, and Matthew Fuentes of my staff be given all-access passes to the floor during the consideration of H.R. 1628.
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Julia Rhodes and Kyle Wesson, fellows in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2017

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 27; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 1628, with the time until 2:15 p.m. equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; and finally, that at 2:15 p.m., the Senate vote in relation to the Daines amendment No. 340, as modified.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:57 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, July 27, 2017, at 10 a.m.
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING FONA INTERNATIONAL, INC.

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor FONA International, Inc., a company located in Geneva, Illinois, which was recently named the number one small/medium workplace in Chicago by Fortune magazine and consulting firm Great Place to Work.

At FONA International, Inc., 97 percent of employees say they are proud of their workplace, have been offered training or development to further themselves professionally, and have access to a special and unique benefit system.

This was only possible due to the leadership of Joe and Mary Slawek. Since FONA International’s founding in 1987 the Slaweks have been the driving force behind its exceptional corporate culture which stresses retaining and recognizing its employees. The Slaweks have championed innovative programs and initiatives which have earned their company a spot on the National Association for Business Resources’ list of Chicago’s 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work for.

FONA International, Inc. is currently celebrating 30 years creating and producing flavors for the largest food, beverage, and nutrition companies in the world. Their excellent work over the years has made them an industry leader and have they have even been awarded the 2016 Food Quality and Safety Award by Food Quality and Safety magazine.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in congratulating FONA International, Inc. on being named the number one workplace in Chicagoland and for their legacy of achievement. FONA International Inc. is a company that truly cares not only for their customers, but also for their employees.

RECOGNIZING THE 27TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.
OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 27th Anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Congress passed the ADA to break down the physical and societal barriers that kept disabled Americans from fully participating in the American Dream. From creating standards for wheelchair accessibility in places open to the public, to requiring 911 phone lines to be equipped to respond to hearing-impaired callers, the ADA has transformed the lives of millions of Americans. The progress we’ve made is remarkable, and I’m proud to have been part of these efforts.

Throughout my career, I have seen few pieces of legislation that bring all people together as much as the ADA. Not only did this historic legislation pass both chambers with large bipartisan majorities, but the ADA Amendments Act passed unanimously in 2008. This legislation shows that Congress can come together to solve problems for the betterment of the American people.

I proudly stand with the thousands of advocates who come to Washington, D.C. this week to continue the fight for the rights of all Americans.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHILD NUTRITION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL
OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to express my strong support for reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act (CNR). Every 5 years, we are provided with an opportunity to strengthen child nutrition and school meal programs so they meet the nutrition needs of our children. The last time we reauthorized Child Nutrition programs was in 2010 when President Obama signed the Health, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. This Act included a number of improvements to the quality of school food and created a national afterschool meal program, in addition to several other positive provisions that have helped to address food insecurity since its passage. That law expired in 2015. Financial problems plaguing the CNR cannot be addressed unless Congress takes decisive action in reforming this legislation.

The issues of food insecurity and nutrition in this country impact far too many families. According to the USDA, 13 percent of American households are food insecure. Families in my district are disproportionately affected by food insecurity. For example, this inadequate access to food is a stark reality for individuals in Wilcox County, where thirty-three percent of the population has uncertain access to food. In Dallas, Greene and Sumter Counties, the food insecurity rate is higher than 29 percent.

Most troubling, though, is the alarming percentage of children in my district affected by the issue of food scarcity. In Tuscaloosa, 23 percent of children faced food scarcity in 2016. Furthermore, sixty-six percent of students in Tuscaloosa City Schools rely on free or reduced lunch programs. For these children, federal programs provide essential nutrition that they would not otherwise have access to.

Hunger can have serious, harmful effects on a child’s health and ability to learn. Childhood hunger is associated with behavioral, attention, academic, and emotional problems. These struggles can lead to lower test scores, higher levels of school failure, other potentially lifelong health problems, and learning deficits. Prioritizing this issue is necessary to revitalize the crucial nutrition programs that many children in this country rely on. We cannot afford to leave our most vulnerable citizens without access to the proper resources they need in order to thrive and contribute to our society. That is why I am urging Congress to take action and renew the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY
OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on July 17, 2017, I was absent from the House and missed Roll Call Vote 379. Had I been present for Roll Call Vote 379, on passage of H.R. 2210, I would have voted Yes.

VALERIA ALU’S 101ST BIRTHDAY

HON. PAUL MITCHELL
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give special recognition to one of Michigan’s oldest residents who will celebrate her 101st birthday on August 9th. Ms. Alu was born in 1916 and lived in the Detroit area for over 60 years, witnessing first-hand the incredible changes of the city before moving into Michigan’s 10th District. Val, as she likes to be called, spent her life serving others by teaching immigrants the path to gain U.S. citizenship. Val also enjoys reading and has fond memories baking cookies with her daughter every day.

I would like to congratulate Ms. Valeria Alu on this amazing milestone, and thank her for countless years of service. I wish this centenarian a very healthy and happy birthday.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.
Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on July 24, 2017, I missed three recorded votes on the House floor so that I could be present for the birth of my daughter, Caroline. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call 407, yea on Roll Call 408, and yea on Roll Call 409.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished accomplishment of a constituent in my district, Sophie Eubanks, on the occasion of her 2017 NFIB Young Entrepreneur Award.

Miss Eubanks, of Raleigh, NC, is the founder and owner of The PinkyGirl, a web based monogramming apparel company.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Miss Eubanks on her outstanding achievements. We wish her nothing but the best for her future entrepreneurial and educational endeavors.

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3364, the Medicare Part B Improvement Act. This bill would make specific improvements to Medicare Part B programs, like protecting access to orthotics and prosthetics for Medicare beneficiaries who need them.

In particular, a provision within this bill, spearheaded by Representative GT THOMPSON, MIKE THOMPSON, and myself, would allow additional information provided by prosthetists and orthotists—the trained clinical experts who evaluate and fit the beneficiary—to be considered by Medicare to support documentation of medical necessity for orthotics and prosthetics.

This straightforward, bipartisan bill will improve the quality of life of beneficiaries, save jobs of orthotic and prosthetic suppliers, and provide a foundation to better meet the healthcare needs of our aging constituents.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3178, the Medicare Part B improvement Act.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Countering America’s Adversaries through Sanctions Act.

It’s thought that Russia has been behind the hacking of many attempted hacking of campaigns, infrastructure by its states, and government entities in many of our European allies, including Denmark, France, Georgia, the Netherlands, Germany, Ukraine, and Estonia. In Ukraine, Russia is thought to be behind a power blackout in 2015.

Many of Russia’s attempts have failed, but in Russia’s influence campaign in the 2016 presidential election, it was partially successful. Russia and its government-backed hackers have undermined the integrity of our democratic processes and our system of representative government, the foundation of our country, since its inception. It may not have succeeded in changing the outcome of the election, but it has accomplished one of its goals, to sow discord and mistrust in an already-divided country. We must not let it accomplish its other aims.

President Trump has often seemed more admiring of Vladimir Putin and Russian officials than he has of his own country. In many cases, he’s been friendlier to the Russian government than to his own advisors. As president, astonishingly, he’s talked about a joint cyber-security task force with our biggest cyber adversary.

This bill is a crucial step in ensuring that we make clear to Russia that we will not accept the meddling of foreign governments in our democratic processes, or the endurinor intimidation of our allies and our people. We must make sure that Russia is not emboldened by our president’s apparent determination to improve relations with Russia at any cost, and that it does not continue to endanger our democracy, our infrastructure, or our allies.

Make no mistake—Russia poses a huge threat to the United States. If the U.S. government fails to respond, Ukraine’s power blackout should serve as a warning of what is to come, to ignore our peril. Russia’s appetite for cyber and information warfare and its willingness to employ criminals and malicious hackers forewarned by other countries make it especially dangerous. We must protect our people and our infrastructure, and this bill makes sure that Congress has the ability to do that.

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Emilio Vargas, Jr., a civil rights activist, local historian, and community leader who recently passed away at the age of 83. The Goliad native’s reach was immense as he helped both his neighbors and Hispanics throughout Texas gain recognition at the State Capitol.

Mr. Vargas joined the U.S. Air Force in 1954 and served until 1958 when he was honorably discharged. He also served on the Goliad school board and as Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace from 1995 to 2006. Vargas was then employed by the Texas Department of State Health Service for over 30 years.

Mr. Vargas made it his mission to educate and empower people in communities across the state of Texas. Realizing that only through education could Hispanics advance, he set out to influence many lives, especially those of Hispanic youth. An avid historian, he worked tirelessly to share stories of struggle and the proud traditions of those whose heritage he shared. Through his tireless efforts with the
Ignacio Zaragoza Society, one of the many nonprofits he served during his life, Emilio shaped the lives of countless people in his community.

Emilio Vargas will be missed for his tremendous heart, his sense of duty and his unwavering belief that this land is a land for all.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Mr. Emilio Vargas, Jr. I ask my colleagues to join me in carrying on his legacy.

SELF RID GE ANGB 100TH ANNIVERSARY
HON. SANDER M. LEVIN
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Selfridge ANGB is home to the Air National Guard 127th Wing, which operates KC–135 Stratotankers and the A–10 Thunderbolt II. The base is also currently home to more than 20 tenant units from all branches of the military, the Coast Guard, and Border Patrol.

Opened in 1917, the base, then called Selfridge Field, was one of only nine military air fields in the United States as we entered World War I. The field remained a training ground through World War II. In 1943, the 332nd Fighter Group of the historic Tuskegee Airmen was garrisoned at the base.

After World War II ended, Selfridge expanded its borders to its current size and was renamed Selfridge Air Force Base. The base continued to train pilots and stand ready through the Cold War. For twenty years, Selfridge AFB provided ground-controlled interception coverage for interceptor aircraft and surface-to-air missiles. When the Air Force’s mission at Selfridge ended in 1970, the base was transferred to the Michigan Air National Guard, becoming Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

Today, Selfridge ANGB continues to be an important member of the southeast Michigan region, and a vital resource in the defense of our nation. The base works to bring aviation themed math and science education to our community through the STARBASE program. Selfridge ANGB also continues to excel at its mission, and was most recently awarded both the Carl A. Spaatz Award and the Air Force Meritorious Unit Award.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in celebrating and honoring the 100th Anniversary of Selfridge Air National Guard Base and the men and women of the 127th Wing who continue to serve our country admirably. As a beacon of community involvement and military excellence, we look forward to Selfridge ANGB’s continued service for many years to come.

HONORING THE HONORABLE SAMUEL M. MORRIS
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and life of the Honorable Samuel M. Morris of the Third Congressional District of New Jersey, and to express my sincerest condolences to his family and loved ones he has left behind, as well as to recognize his career of public service.

Samuel was known for his unwavering focus on his goals. His talent for advocacy started in high school when he was an active member of the Debating Club at Point Pleasant Beach High School. He was a talented athlete, and was a member of the 1953 “miracle gulls” football team, which won the Group I State Championship.

In 1954, Samuel responded to our nation’s call by joining and serving in the armed forces with the Engineers of the 11th Airborne. With a passion for learning, specifically the law, he continued his academic studies while serving his country, taking courses in German and International Law in Munich, Germany. Among his return home to the United States, Samuel completed his Bachelor’s Degree in History and Political Science at Monmouth College and eventually received his Juris Doctor Degree from the Seton Hall University School of Law.

Samuel led a successful legal career, first practicing for Mead, Geason, Hansen, and Pantagesa Firm in Newark, New Jersey, specializing in Workers’ Compensation Law. Samuel decided to open his own practice in his hometown of Brick, New Jersey. After years of establishing a successful private practice, Samuel was appointed to become the Brick Township Municipal Judge. He was so successful in that position, that he was called upon by other townships to help them establish their municipal court systems. He was known and well respected in every township that he presided over in the years to come.

Beyond his illustrious legal career, Samuel was a dedicated family man, who married his wife Lynn in 1956. Samuel enjoyed spending time with Lynn, their five children, and many grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey’s Third Congressional District are tremendously honored to have had the Honorable Samuel M. Morris as a selfless and dedicated member of their community who devoted his career to bettering the lives of others. It is with a heavy heart that I commemorate his veteran service, career, and life, and recognize the lasting legacy of public service that he has left behind, before the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN CHINESE COMMERCE ASSOCIATION (HK)
HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Chinese Commerce Association (HK) as they celebrate 20 years of exemplary service to the Asian American community.

Since it began, the American Chinese Commerce Association (HK) has been a voice for Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans living in New York City and around the globe. As one of the largest chambers of commerce in the United States, the association is committed to providing business opportunities in the American and Chinese business sectors. By assisting immigrants as they develop successful business enterprises, the association is a bold advocate for local small businesses and entrepreneurs.

With it comes maintaining business and trade relationships between the U.S. and China, the American Chinese Commerce Association works to protect the best interests of both parties.

I sincerely congratulate American Chinese Commerce Association (HK) for its proud history and many achievements. The future is bright for many more years of successful and even life-changing work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. JAMES B. RENACCI
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 410, YEA on Roll Call No. 411, YEA on Roll Call No. 412, and YEA on Roll Call No. 413.

IN RECOGNITION OF LARRY GREENE
HON. DORIS O. MATSUI
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I stand to recognize Mr. Larry Greene’s retirement from the position of Executive Director of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Greene and his outstanding dedication to cleaner air in my hometown of Sacramento.

Mr. Greene served our region for twenty-two years, helping to produce cleaner air, prolong lifespans, and protect the environment. He was a two-term president of the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), and holds a permanent seat on its Board of Directors. Larry’s public service also included a term as President of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies. Before he delved into clean air policy, Mr. Greene served our country in the United States Army for 25 years, specializing in logistics management. Clearly, Larry Greene is the epitome of a public servant.

Since 1990, the Sacramento region has benefited from a 66 percent drop in nitrogen oxides, largely thanks to Mr. Greene’s efforts. He has been the main proponent for many clean air programs, including the “Spare the Air” and “Check Before You Burn” campaigns. His success can be attributed to his methods of working as a partner for elected officials and community organizations that seek out solid, incentive-based solutions for businesses. Communities across our country that wish to improve their air quality should look no further than Larry for the model of what a clean air advocate can do.

Mr. Speaker, I stand to honor Mr. Larry Greene today and to wish him the best of luck.
CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH IN HARLINGEN, TEXAS

HON. FILEMON VELA
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Queen of Peace Parish as they celebrate 50 years of service.

Located in the South Texas city of Harlingen, Queen of Peace Parish was founded in 1967 when the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary ventured from Fairhaven, Massachusetts, to Harlingen to establish their presence in the newly formed Diocese of Brownsville. Since its formation, the parish has focused on families, and that continues to be a cornerstone today. For 50 years, its members have volunteered time and energy to helping those most in need.

The parish, through Fr. Regis Kwiatkowski SS.CC., inherited a tract of land designated for low-income housing development. The land was then purchased, and a lot where the first rectory was built, originally just a farm house. Today the church building sits on that same piece of property, and September 2017 marks the anniversary of the congregation’s presence in the community.

Queen of Peace Parish has made a lasting, positive impact in our community, and they will continue to play a role in the improvement of South Texas. I rise today to congratulate them for their half-century of success.

RECOGNIZING LA SOUPE

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the story of La Soupe, a local non-profit here in Cincinnati, with the rest of the country and to recognize them for their contributions to our community.

La Soupe is a non-profit organization run by a local chef, Suzy DeYoung. They take the food-waste donations of local grocery stores—food that would otherwise be thrown out at the end of the day—and turn it into delicious soups, that are then given to people who are hungry.

In 2016 alone, La Soupe successfully rescued 125,000 pounds of food from going to the landfill and donated over 95,000 servings to food insecure households. La Soupe’s impact in the Greater Cincinnati area should be shared with the country as we work to address poverty, and the challenges that Americans experiencing poverty face every day. La Soupe is a prime example of why a grassroots approach is needed to focus on empowering local poverty and hunger initiatives to thrive. They know the community best—and are positioned to provide the local solutions that are needed to help their neighbors.

Thank you to Suzy, and the staff at La Soupe, for their dedication to the wellbeing of all members of our community. I look forward to watching the further success of La Soupe, and the impact it makes on Ohio’s Second District, and the country.

FLORIDA INVENTORS HALL OF FAME 2017

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the eight inventors who have been recognized as the 2017 Inductees of the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame. In order to be named as an Inductee, these inventors were nominated by their peers nationwide and have undergone the scrutiny of the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame Selection Committee. As a result, these innovations have been identified as significantly impacting the quality of life, economic development, and welfare of their communities, the citizens of Florida, and the United States.

The Florida Inventors Hall of Fame was founded in 2013 by Paul R. Sanberg, Senior Vice President for Research, Innovation and Knowledge Enterprise, and Judy Genshaft, President, at the University of South Florida. It was recognized by the Florida Senate with Senate Resolution 1756, adopted on April 30, 2014. Its mission is to encourage individuals of all backgrounds to strive toward the betterment of Florida and society through continuous, groundbreaking innovation by celebrating the incredible scientific work that has been or is being accomplished in Florida and by its citizens.

Nomination to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame is open to all Florida inventors (living or dead) who are or have been residents of Florida. The nominee must be a named inventor on a patent issuing from the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The impact of the inventor and his or her invention should be significant to society as a whole, and the invention should have been commercialized, utilized, or led to important innovations.

The 2017 Inductees of the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame are:

- Issa Bataarseh, director of the Florida Power Electronics Center at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, for inventing low cost, high efficiency micro-inverters for photovoltaic (PV) applications that led to the creation of the first compact single solar PV panel;
- J. DeLuca, electrical engineer and intellectual property counsel for NextEra Energy, Florida Power & Light, in Juno Beach, for his groundbreaking technology known...
today as “voltage scaling,” which significantly increased the battery life of portable communication devices;

Kenneth M. Ford, co-founder and CEO of the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, in Pensacola and Ocala, for his pioneering work in artificial intelligence, human-centered computing, and for his significant contributions to the United States and Florida’s technology and research communities;

Phillip Frost, physician, inventor, and current CEO of OPKO Health in Miami, who invented a revolutionary disposable punch biopsy tool, as well as various therapeutic methods for treating psoriasis, heart and respiratory diseases;

Richard D. Gitlin, State of Florida 21st Century World Class Scholar and Distinguished University Professor at the University of South Florida in Tampa, for development of the original digital subscriber line (DSL) and his subsequent inventive research and development in digital communications, broadband networking, and wireless systems that transformed communication technology;

Thomas H. Maren, (1918–1999), physician, Graduate Research Professor at the University of Florida (UF) in Gainesville, and charter member of the UF College of Medicine faculty, who made underlying discoveries that resulted in the invention and commercialization of Trusopt®, the first topical treatment for glaucoma; and

T. Dwayne McCay and Mary Helen McCay, Dwayne McCay, President of the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) in Melbourne, and Mary Helen McCay, whose novel approaches in the area of metallurgical engineering, specific to laser-induced surface improvement (LISI), have greatly contributed to increased patient safety and improved medical outcomes in facilities nationwide.

Innovation and invention are the building blocks of our nation. I applaud these highly accomplished individuals and the organizations that support them in their quest to change the world in ways that truly benefit humanity. Furthermore, it is because of the perseverance of these inventors that future generations are encouraged to reach beyond their limits and push the boundaries of innovation.

IN RECOGNITION OF BELFRY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH PHILIP HAYWOOD, FOR BEING NAMED COACH OF THE YEAR BY THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC COACHES ASSOCIATION

HON. HAROLD ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today in recognition of the outstanding achievements of one of my constituents, the Head Football Coach of Belfry High School, Mr. Philip Haywood. Unparalleled among his peers, Coach Haywood was recently named Coach of the Year by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association. A native of Prestonsburg, he has coached Eastern Kentuckians for more than 40 years, and is the winningest coach in Kentucky history with a record of 417 wins and only 130 losses.

Clearly, this is not the first major award Coach Haywood has received—far from it. In 2013, Coach Haywood was named USA Today’s National Coach of the Year, an award voted on by fans, and a clear indication of how beloved he is by those who know and appreciate both the Common Wealth and beyond. In 2014, he received the Blanton Collier School Coach of the Year award, an honor reserved for only the best coaches in Kentucky. In 2016, he was inducted into the Kentucky High School Coaches Hall of Fame. To the surprise of no one, Coach Haywood has been named the Courier-Journal Coach of the Year five different times. His successes are many, and his impact far-reaching.

Accolades aside, what truly separates Coach Haywood from the rest of the field is his dedication to “Faith, Family, and Football,” the title of a book he recently authored that speaks to the eternal. Coach Haywood has been a longtime youth leader and choir director in his local church, and has served as a Fellowship of Christian Athletes Huddle leader for over 30 years. As a coach and mentor, he has taught his student-athletes the value of self-discipline, to overcome defeat, to be gracious in victory, and to persevere through every test. He has mentored hundreds of students, guiding them along the straight and narrow path. An exemplary model of success and virtue, I thank Coach Haywood for his many years of service to the Fifth District. His efforts, past and present, are much appreciated.

In celebration of the life and legacy of Moises Vicente Vela, Sr.

HON. FILEMON VELA OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Moises Vicente Vela, Sr., beloved patriarch of one of the most prominent and loved families of the Rio Grande Valley, who passed away on June 11, 2017.

Judge Vela, or “Moe,” as he was known to friends and family, was born and raised in Harlingen, Texas. Judge Vela returned to his hometown following his graduation from St. Mary’s University School of Law in San Antonio. He later served as a municipal court judge in Harlingen and was one of the first Hispanics to serve as Cameron County judge.

Beloved by his community, Judge Vela was dedicated to improving the lives of those around him. From his involvement with the Boys and Girls Club of Harlingen, Lions Club, Jaycees, and the Vietnam War Selective Service Draft Board to his contributions as a former Chairman of the Board of Regents of Pan American University (UTRGV), Judge Vela deeply cared about creating a more prosperous future for residents of the Rio Grande Valley.

In spite of his 50 plus years of service to his community, Judge Vela considered his wife, five children, 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, his greatest accomplishment. He will be remembered as a kind and generous man, whose legacy will forever live on in South Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Judge Vela for his lifetime of service to our community. The Rio Grande Valley has lost one of its finest, and his absence will be felt for a long time to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN OPPORTUNITY CARBON FEE ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this administration has made attacking the environment and rolling back progress we’ve made fighting climate change one of its top priorities. The most recent example is the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement. They’re taking us backwards. Future generations will shoulder the increased temperatures, rising sea levels, and environmental degradation.

We can’t deny modern science. Human activities, including the burning of fossil fuels, are contributing to climate change. The United States is a major contributor to global carbon pollution and shows little sign of stopping. We have a moral responsibility to reverse this trend and place sensible limits on emissions.

In the absence of leadership from the White House, Congress must step up. That’s why this week, my colleague Representative DAVID CICILLINE and I are joining our colleagues, Senators SHELDON WHITEHOUSE and BRIAN SCHATZ, in introducing legislation to finally put a clear price on carbon pollution and begin to drastically lower our emissions.

The American Opportunity Carbon Fee Act would place a $49 fee on every metric ton of carbon emissions starting in 2018. This fee would increase every year to ensure that polluters pay their fair share. It also levels the playing field by pricing dirty energy accurately—so clean energy can better compete. To ensure that the American people aren’t hurt by this price on carbon, part of the fee would be returned to the public every year as a refundable tax credit. Additional funds would be used to help vulnerable communities who might be impacted by higher heating and electricity bills.

Putting a price on emissions is a crucial element of our transition to a low carbon future, helping us not just stave off the worst impacts of climate change, but also grow the “clean economy,” create jobs, and save money.

Reducing the amount of carbon that we put into the air is just one part of the fight against climate change. When paired with investments in public transit, affordable housing, and clean energy jobs, particularly in those communities most impacted by climate change, this bill can kick-start much needed climate action.

I am under no illusion that this bill will move to the floor as is, but this is an important step to engaging in a bipartisan, bicameral discussion on how to best put a price on carbon. It’s time to wake up, and I urge my colleagues to join us in finally taking meaningful Congressional action to address climate change.
Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant First Class Edward “Grady” Halcomb and his brave and selfless acts while serving as a medic for Company B, 1st Battalion of the 29th Infantry Division in the United States Army during the Korean War. Sergeant First Class Halcomb passed away on July 2, 2017.

A veteran of 20 years of service, Sergeant First Class Halcomb’s strength and care for his fellow soldiers during the war was truly exemplary. At only 19 years old, he endured and witnessed unspeakable horrors that no one should ever have to experience. No matter how dangerous or grim the circumstances, he never gave up hope on his fellow soldiers, his country or himself.

His company was outnumbered by North Korean troops, depleted of all ammo, and captured. One of only 11 men left after battle, then-Private First Class Halcomb was forced to walk the 20-mile Seoul Death March to Pyongyang, North Korea, where he and more than 300 American troops were held as prisoners of war (POWs).

As numerous soldiers were dying daily from malnutrition and medical issues, Private First Class Halcomb risked his life day-after-day to protect and save his fellow soldiers by helping to negotiate food and medicine for them.

After 85 torturous and terrifying days of being POWs, Private First Class Halcomb and four other soldiers miraculously escaped and were rescued, only days before the rest of the prisoners were brutally murdered.

Sergeant First Class Grady Halcomb’s valor, sacrifice and service to this country communicate an incredible testimony of a man who put his life on the line for America and its people. Because of him, and soldiers like him, we are able to enjoy the benefits of living in the greatest nation on Earth.

Although we can no more to Sergeant First Class Halcomb than we can never truly repay, one of my greatest honors and joys of being a Member of Congress was presenting him with the Distinguished Service Cross, for which he so richly deserved and humbly accepted after never seeking any recognition or glory for his heroism and actions.

Not only was Sergeant First Class Halcomb a tremendous soldier, he was also an exceptional representation of the Polk County communities that I am honored to represent. Having the opportunity to meet him and his family is a treasure I will forever hold close to my heart.

The depth of appreciation, respect and admiration I have for Sergeant First Class Halcomb and his fellow soldiers is immeasurable. He will be dearly missed.

Let us never forget or take for granted the selfless, and courageous acts by Sergeant First Class Halcomb and our service members to protect us and our freedoms every single day. May God bless them all, and may God bless the United States of America.

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the leadership and contributions of Lee Bealuk, of the Third Congressional District of New Jersey, specifically all that he has done for the Township of Medford. Lee has served in a leadership capacity with Boy Scout Troop No. 20 of Medford for over 50 years, currently serving as Scoutmaster Emeritus and mentor to scouts who are working towards attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

Lee has mentored 84 young men from Troop No. 20 who have achieved this rank, the highest within the Boy Scouts of America organization. Lee’s accomplishments with Troop No. 20’s Eagle Scouts are astonishing given that less than 5 percent of youth who participate in Boy Scouts achieve this rank. As a component of the Eagle Scout process, the candidate must develop, coordinate, and implement a community service project and with 84 Scouts earning this rank, the Township of Medford as well as many other local facilities, have been the beneficiaries of the projects undertaken by the Eagle Scout candidates.

Lee serves as the liaison between each Eagle Scout and the entities where the projects are conducted and his diligence in ensuring that all the logistics have been addressed is an excellent example to the Scout, while imparting other Boy Scout ideals including responsibility, community involvement, and civic duty.

Lee’s leadership skills and dedication are an asset to the Boy Scouts of America Troop No. 20, his community, his family, and his friends.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey’s Third Congressional District are tremendously honored to have Mr. Lee Bealuk as a selfless and devoted member of their community who has made a tremendous impact on our future generations of leaders. It is my honor to recognize his outstanding achievements and untried dedication in mentoring the young men and fellow Scoutmasters who participate with Troop No. 20, especially those who commit to attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, and thank him for all that he has done, before the United State House of Representatives.

Mr. BEDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Alonzo Morales, Texas Firefighter of the Year.

Chief Morales began working with the Goliad Volunteer Fire Department when he was eighteen years old. He has been with the department for 37 years, serving for the past 27 years as its Fire Chief. In addition to his work with the Volunteer Fire Department, Morales is County Commissioner for Precinct Two, a post he has held since 2010.
Morales represented the Guadalupe District at the State Firefighters’ and Fire Marshals’ Association of Texas’ conference in San Marcos earlier this summer. His district nominated him for Texas Firefighter of the Year before the conference, and he was interviewed by a panel of judges which selected him for the award.

Chief Morales has had a substantial positive impact on his community, dedicating his life to serving the city of Goliad and its surrounding county, and will undoubtedly continue to do so for years to come. I rise today to congratulate Chief Alonzo Morales for being honored as the Texas Firefighter of the Year.

CPL. EDWARD LEE BORDERS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and tell the story of Army Reserve Corporal Edward Lee Borders, a soldier who gave his life for this country in the Korean War.

Cpl. Borders served as a member of D Battery, 82nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, supporting South Korean Army attacks against units of the Chinese People’s Volunteer Forces (CPVF). On February 11, 1951, the DPAI report shows that the CPVF was able to force the South Koreans to withdraw and leave the Support Force 21, which included Borders’ unit, behind at Changbong-ni.

Cpl. Borders was reported as missing in action on February 13, 1951, when he did not report with his unit in Wonju. Three years later, he was declared dead, but his body was never identified. Cpl. Border’s father put up a monument in a Harrisburg, Illinois cemetery with the hope of someday laying his son to rest.

For 66 years, the family could not glean any further information, despite consistent investigations from Borders’ father and stepmother. However, recently Army Reserve Cpl. Edward Lee Borders’ body was finally identified from the remains returned to the United States from North Korea between 1990 and 1994. Per his family’s request, his remains are returning home to Illinois. After receiving plane-side honors, Cpl. Borders will be escorted to his final resting place by an honor guard and members of the Patriot Riders.

The Borders family will bury Cpl. Borders on July 29 in Harrisburg, Illinois, where he will receive a service with full military honors. Finally, the Borders family will be able to honor Army Reserve Cpl. Edward Lee Borders by laying him to rest at the monument placed in his name, thereby fulfilling the 66-year-old wish of a father to bury his son.

I am proud to acknowledge the Borders family for their love for our country and their family, and I thank Cpl. Edward Lee Borders for his service and his sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING MS. MAY LIANG MUI AND MR. BAITONG YAN

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Ms. May Liang Mui and Mr. Baitong Yan on their upcoming 2017 “No-Boundaries” International Art Exhibition.

A non-profit exhibition held annually, “No-Boundaries” promotes art and art education to promote social responsibility among students who hail from all corners of the globe. During this event, students have the opportunity to work alongside professional artists and cultivate a project that fuses art, culture and global human rights.

Held at the United Nations (UN) in New York City, UN officials will present awards to outstanding young art artists. Taken to prove that art truly has no boundaries, students of all different backgrounds will gather to traverse cultural barriers and express themselves through art.

I applaud all those involved in organizing such a rich cultural event right in the center of New York City. I extend my best wishes for a successful and inspiring exhibition.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. RYSZARD “RICHARD” LABA

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN
OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ryszard “Richard” Laba, a lifelong resident of Northbridge, Massachusetts who served as a United States Army Military Policeman in Vietnam.

Mr. Laba was born in Poland and moved to the United States at 16 to live with his brother in Worcester, Massachusetts. At 21, he was drafted into the army and served honorably in Vietnam between 1967 and 1969. Wounded in combat and exposed to the dangerous chemical Agent Orange, Mr. Laba returned home to Massachusetts.

Back home, Mr. Laba was a hard worker and a family man who loved his community. He served as an assistant foreman at the Worcester Gear Company for 39 years, retiring in 2003. He passed away on September 10, 2012 at the age of 66. He is survived by his wife Margaret, who has worked tirelessly to raise awareness about Vietnam veterans, like her husband, who have experienced the debilitating effects of Agent Orange.

Mr. Laba may not have been born an American, but he was so proud of his adopted country. His selflessness is an example for all who aspire to public service.

The system also presents a real problem for school districts, as schools across the country face a growing teacher shortage. Across the board, teacher education enrollment dropped 35 percent from 2009 to 2014; however, the types of shortages vary across states. Limited licensure policies make it even more difficult for school administrators to fill teaching positions—and for students, the consequence results in less access to high-quality teachers.

The Interstate Teaching Mobility Act would direct the Department of Education to create a new, voluntary program for states to participate in an interstate teaching application processing. Teachers licensed or certified in one participating state would be eligible to teach in another. A participating state would be required to adhere to standards of content knowledge, pedagogical assessment, and performance assessment identified as sufficiently rigorous by an outside organization. This would ensure high standards for our teachers while maintaining the flexibility of the states in setting specific requirements for teaching in the state or obtaining licenses in the state.
With programs like the one envisioned by this bill, teachers could far more easily transfer their skills to another participating state. Teachers would benefit from the ability to more easily relocate, while schools and districts would have superior options for filling teacher shortages. Above all, students will benefit from the standards set by their home state and will have increased access to high-quality teachers.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Interstate Teaching Mobility Act.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ROMEO LOMAS

HON. FILEMON VELA
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Romeo Lomas for his dedicated service to his fellow Texans.

Romeo Lomas served as the longest tenured County Commissioner in Kleberg County. He was adored by the people in his precinct, who convinced him to run for office in 1979 after a career as a barber and an enlistment in the U.S. Army. For 38 years, Mr. Lomas played an integral role in the development of his community by championing causes for the poor and elderly. Lomas was a staunch proponent of voting rights and encouraged citizens to participate in the electoral process. He was a strong advocate of equal opportunities for workers in Kleberg County and supported wage raises. While Mr. Lomas accomplished much in life, one of his greatest achievements during his time in office was the establishment of the Kleberg County Human Services Department which continues to provide hot meals and public transportation for disabled and elderly citizens in the area today.

Romeo Lomas was born on September 3, 1937 to Santiago and Estella Lomas in Kingsville, TX. He was married to Doris Lee Lomas, who lost her battle with cancer in July, 2014. He is survived by his daughter, Crystal Runyon, one granddaughter, Luna Lee Runyon, and a sister, Hilda Garcia.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today to honor Romeo Lomas for his lifetime of service to our community. I considered him a friend and a role model, and his loss will be felt for a long time to come.

HONORING DELILAH RUMBURG ON HER RETIREMENT AFTER 23 YEARS OF SERVICE AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COALITION AGAINST RAPE

HON. SCOTT PERRY
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I offer my sincere congratulations to my constituent, Delilah Rumburg, on her upcoming retirement after more than 23 years of service as Chief Executive Officer of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR).

Delilah began her service to our community in 1981, at ACCESS York, a domestic violence shelter in the 4th Congressional District. In her own words, she knew she found her life’s work and later joined PCAR as its CEO in 1995. Since then, she has lead PCAR’s tremendous growth and outreach to communities in Pennsylvania and throughout the Nation. Delilah served as Co-Chair of the Department of Defense Task Force for Child Protection, as the Civilian Deputy Co-Chair of the Department of Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault in the Military Services, and as Co-Chair of the U.S. Department of Defense Task Force on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies.

Delilah’s tireless dedication, professionalism and passion towards ending sexual violence has touched the lives of countless people and challenged all with whom she served to be the best. Her legacy of service to our community and Nation truly is admirable.

Before the Baby AIDS bill became law, in 1993, as lawmakers, we all know that bills can go through multiple versions and can face criticism from the community. The Baby AIDS bill was no different. Assemblywoman Mayersohn worked tirelessly to show opposition groups that the Baby AIDS bill would allow infants to receive the treatment that they desperately needed and their guardians and doctors to be informed about their condition. As lawmakers, we all know thatAssemblywoman Mayersohn’s colleagues gave her a standing ovation after the final version of the Baby AIDS bill passed in the assembly in 1996.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that due to Assemblywoman Mayersohn’s hard work, every infant in New York State is legally required to be tested for HIV and require hospitals to inform the infant’s parent or guardian of the results. Statistics gathered soon after the law was enacted showed a 98.8 percent success rate in the number of HIV infants identified and connected to treatment. According to the New York State Department of Health, from 1998 to 2013, Assemblywoman Mayersohn’s Baby AIDS law saved an estimated 900 infants from a lifetime of HIV. I am truly honored to recognize Assemblywoman Mayersohn, fondly known as “Nette”, and her law that truly improved the quality of life for so many New Yorkers.

In recognition of the career of Steve Hammond

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Steve Hammond on the occasion of his retirement as CEO of Visit Sacramento, the City of Sacramento’s innovative tourism bureau. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Hammond for his leadership and commitment in the community to promoting Sacramento and refining its image as a tourist destination.

Since being appointed to the position of CEO in 1999, Mr. Hammond has overseen a highly successful campaign to make Sacramento as a major attraction to visitors. He has encouraged businesses to hold events and conventions in Sacramento, capitalized on

HON. GRACE MENG
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of former New York State Assemblywoman Nettie Mayersohn, and her landmark law, commonly known as the “Baby AIDS” bill, that was enacted in New York State On June 26, 1996. The Baby AIDS bill requires mandatory testing of infants for the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and HIV antibodies, and authorizes disclosing the results to infants’ doctors and guardians.

Before the Baby AIDS bill became law, infants born in New York State were tested for the HIV antibody through studies that the New York State Department of Health initiated in 1987. But confidentiality laws at the time required these tests to be anonymous. Therefore, the guardians and doctors of the infants who tested positive were kept in the dark about the results. The nearly sixty thousand infants born between the years of 1,500–1,800 infants who tested positive per year to be sent home without diagnosis or treatment. As a mother myself, I cannot imagine the horror of being legally barred from knowing the health status of my child. That is why I am proud to recognize Assemblywoman Mayersohn for her relentless efforts on the behalf of New York families.

When Assemblywoman Mayersohn was informed that existing New York State law was preventing babies with HIV from being treated, she immediately took action by introducing the Baby AIDS bill in the New York State Assembly in 1993. As lawmakers, we all know that
the city's sports and entertainment opportunities, and spearheaded an inventive campaign to brand Sacramento as America's Farm-to-Fork Capital. By taking advantage of Sacramento's unique location in the heart of California's Central Valley, Mr. Hammond launched a program that has revitalized Sacramento's restaurant scene and boosted business for local hotels and farmers.

In great part due to Mr. Hammond's dedication to his agency, Visit Sacramento's budget has grown from $2 million to $11 million, and its staff has more than doubled. In addition, Mr. Hammond is an extraordinarily active member of the community: He sits on the Boards of the Sacramento Downtown Partnership, the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, the Sacramento Regional Sports and Education Foundation, and the Sacramento Hotel Association.

Mr. Speaker, I stand to pay tribute to Steve Hammond, outgoing CEO of Visit Sacramento, as his friends and colleagues celebrate his well-earned retirement. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring his tenacity and dedication on behalf of the people of Sacramento, as well as his creativity in building up my beloved hometown as a destination for business, food, and culture.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Christopher Williamson, a dedicated individual who devotes his life to protecting and ascending the communities of South Carolina. Mr. Williamson has recently been appointed as the South Carolina Highway Patrol's first African American commander.

From the time he joined in 1988, Williamson has led a rewarding career within the South Carolina Highway Patrol. Williamson is a native of Darlington, South Carolina and was born into a family whose values were founded on hard work, personal integrity and community service. He graduated from Fayetteville State University in 1985 with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and a minor in Police Science. Soon after college, Williamson began his career within the law enforcement realm as a Correctional Officer with the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

In 1986, Williamson accepted a position with the Darlington County Sheriff's Department as a Deputy and within two years, he joined the South Carolina Highway Patrol. His service on the Highway Patrol showed his great dedication, leadership, and dedication. He rose through the leadership ranks by eventually becoming Lieutenant Colonel in 2011 and last month, he was appointed the Commander of the South Carolina Highway patrol. As Commander, he is responsible for overseeing all Patrol operations statewide.

Mr. Williamson's service to his community is not limited to his position as Commander. In 2014 he received a master's degree in Clinical and Behavioral Counseling. He has served as a Youth Advocate Counselor in Berkeley County, a Camp Counselor, and even founded his own non-profit organization that provides mentoring and life skill services for youth. He works hard to prepare youth within his county to become productive members of society. He is a fellow member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., and he represents our fraternity by providing service to the world around him.

Mr. Williamson's career has taken him across the state of South Carolina and he has touched many lives. His humble upbringing and genuine qualities have enabled him to effectively serve his community. Throughout his career, he was actively involved in community service and has received numerous honors and awards for these efforts. He has made history by being appointed to this position and I am proud to call him a fraternity brother and personal friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing this barrier-breaking public servant, and to wish him Godspeed and continued success. Col. Christopher Williamson is a pioneer and an innovator in the law-enforcement arena and has earned the respect of the great state of South Carolina.

Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of NAS-Kingsville

HON. FILEMON VELA
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Naval Air Station (NAS) Kingsville as it marks 75 years of service to the U.S. Navy and our nation.

Located in Kingsville, Texas, the Naval Air Station was opened on July 4, 1942. Inspired by the establishment of the nearby Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi, a group of Kingsville civic leaders approached Navy officials at NAS Corpus Christi about creating a military airfield in February, 1941. While they did not receive official permission at that time, NAS Corpus Christi's commanding officer, Captain Alva D. Bernhard, expressed enthusiasm about the idea.

After the December 7, 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Captain Bernhard predicted a military build-up including the influx of new trainees which would exceed the capacity of NAS-Corpus Christi, and plans to construct a new airfield in Kingsville began.

The airfield was quickly built on 3,000 acres of land bought from the B.O. Sims family. During World War II, the airfield, designated as "P-4," housed four squadrons. The squadrons taught gunnery skills for combat air crews, in addition to fighter and bomber tactics. After the war, the base was given to the City of Kingsville, which leased it to the Texas College of Arts and Industries. It was primarily used by the Department of Agriculture and expanded under the college's ownership.

The base was reactivated as a military installation in April, 1951, as an auxiliary air station, and trained roughly 300 aviators a year during the mid-1960s. In 1967, Congress approved $3.8 million in funding for NAS-Kingsville, allowing it to improve operation and maintenance facilities, as well as troop housing. The base later reactivated as a naval air station on August 9, 1968. In 1990, it became the headquarters for Training Air Wing Two, a mission that continues today.

Training Air Wing Two includes Training Squadron Twenty One and Training Squadron Twenty Two. Around 150 students report to Training Air Wing Two annually for Undergraduate Jet Pilot Training. The Naval Air Station at Kingsville currently occupies 23,000 acres of land, spread across four sites, and employs around 1,350 people, in addition to training 50 percent of Navy and Marine Corps tactical jet pilots every year. Its economic impact on the surrounding community is also significant, as it provides roughly $110 million dollars to the local area. This economic impact is matched by the installation's community outreach program, which includes school mentorship assistance and community self-help program assistance.

NAS-Kingsville has a long history of supporting both the local community and the country, and will continue to do so for years to come. I rise today to congratulate them on 75 successful years.

Honoring The Christian Recorder

HON. JIM COOPER
OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 165th Anniversary of The Christian Recorder. As the oldest periodical continually published by African-Americans in the United States, The Christian Recorder is the heart of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Originally founded in 1848 as The Christian Herald, the publication has been a leading voice for African-Americans ever since. It relocated to Nashville in 1852 with a new name, The Christian Recorder. Twenty-one editors have led The Christian Recorder including John Thomas III, the current leader and the first layperson to serve in this prestigious role.

The Christian Recorder is a reputable news service for religious news. It serves as the voice of two million members of the AME Church in thirty-nine countries around the world.

Its reach extends far beyond the Sunday School Union in Nashville where it is headquartered. From offering guidance to slaves during the Civil War to the battle for voting rights and fighting segregation, The Christian Recorder has been a pioneer for Civil Rights and equality for African-Americans.

I am proud to salute The Christian Recorder for its courageous efforts and its more than 165 years of service to the community.

Honoring Nashville Public Library in Nashville, Tennessee

HON. JIM COOPER
OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nashville Public Library as the 2017 Library of the Year. This national honor, awarded by Library Journal and Gale Cengage Learning, recognizes public libraries for their
commitment to excellence, innovative programs and services, and dedication to the community.

Nashville Public Library is awesome, and unlike any other in America. It is also the location of my district office, perhaps the only congressional office in America located in a public library.

The Library partnered with Metro Nashville Public Schools to create the Limitless Libraries initiative, which allows students and teachers to order and borrow books, movies, laptops, iPads, and more. The Limitless Libraries program is a national model for getting library materials into students’ hands every day, and this partnership has also helped turn several school libraries into exciting, interactive hubs for students.

Nashville Public Library reaches students outside the classroom, too. Teenagers can work with professional mentors to create art or new inventions, work with robots, and produce music and podcasts through the Library’s unique Studio NPL program. The Library also engages children through its Bringing Books to Life program, putting on productions at the Library’s Children’s Theater, and its well-known Puppet Truck. Puppeteers perform 20 shows a week at the theater, but also use the Puppet Truck to reach children and adults throughout Davidson County.

Most importantly is Nashville Public Library’s Civil Rights Room. This chronicles Nashville’s place in the Civil Rights movement, telling the stories of the heroes who fought against segregation and for equal rights. Last year the Library and the Nashville Public Library Foundation named our friend and colleague John Lewis their Literary Award Honoree. Congressman Lewis’ book, March, was also this year’s selection in Nashville Reads, the Library’s city-wide reading campaign, where everyone is invited to read a book and discuss it at libraries in the community.

Mr. Speaker, the writer and poet Jorge Luis Borges said, “I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library.” I agree.

Nashville Public Library is more than books inside a beautiful building. It is even more than Paradise. It is the heart of our community.

RECOGNIZING BLACK WOMEN’S EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. JOYCE BEATTY
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, Monday, July 31, 2017 marks Black Women’s Equal Pay Day, which observes the amount of time it takes the average Black woman to earn the same pay that the average White man earns in one calendar year. In other words, Black women have 13 times less wealth than white families. A lack of wealth and savings means Black families have less to pass down to their children.

If Congress fails to act to ensure wage equality, then all women will lag behind in pay equity until 2059. This is unacceptable. Years of progress has resulted in Black women working across all fields and reaching high levels of academic achievement and it is time for these advancements to result in equal pay for equal work. I call on Republican Leadership to bring to the House floor, the Paycheck Fairness Act, H.R. 1869, and the Raise the Wage Act, H.R. 15. As a proud cosponsor of both of these two pieces of legislation, I urge immediate consideration of these bills so that pay equity can be achieved once and for all.

RECOGNIZING MS. KATHERINE B. WHITMAN

HON. JOE WILSON
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Ms. Katherine B. Whitman for her dedicated service as a detailedie to the House Armed Services Committee over the past six months, achieving her Capitol Hill detail next month, and it is my hope that she has benefited as much from this experience as we have from her service on the subcommittee staff. Katie joined the committee during a year when the Department of Defense is struggling to recover from years of readiness account shortfalls. Katie’s experience as a former surface warfare officer in the U.S. Navy along with her expertise as a budget analyst within the Office of Management and Budget proved critical in our successful effort to markup and adopt one of the broadest reaching National Defense Authorization Acts in recent memory. Her analytical prowess and tenacious appetite for data enabled an historic increase in fiscal year 2018 NDAA authorization of additional resourcing for the Department’s facility readiness accounts by over 2 billion dollars.

I am grateful to Katie for enduring many late nights at work. Her “can-do” attitude and tireless work ethic have been infectious. Her willingness to tackle new issues, and to embrace the goals I have set for the staff, were truly commendable. I have no doubt that as Katie continues her career she will achieve great things for the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of Defense, and her country. I appreciate her dedicated staff work and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 27, 2017 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

AUGUST 1

10 a.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Environmental Protection Agency’s Superfund program.
SD-406

Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine America’s affordable housing crisis, focusing on challenges and solutions.
SD-215

AUGUST 2

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Lance Allen Robertson, of Oklahoma, to be Assistant Secretary for Aging, Brett Giroir, of Texas, and Robert P. Kadlec, of New York, both to be a Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, and to be Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, and Elinore F. McCance-Katz, of Rhode Island, to be Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, all of the Department of Health and Human Services, and Jerome M. Adams, of Indiana, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service.
SD-430

Time to be announced
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
Business meeting to consider S. 154, to amend the Small Business Act to ensure small businesses affected by the onset of transmissible diseases are eligible for disaster relief, S. 450, to amend the Small Business Act to expand tax credit education and training
for small businesses that engage in research and development, S. 690, to extend the eligibility of redesignated areas as HUBZones from 3 years to 7 years, S. 1229, to improve the HUBZone program, S. 1038, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to submit to Congress a report on the utilization of small businesses with respect to certain Federal contracts, and S. 1428, to amend section 21 of the Small Business Act to require cyber certification for small business development center counselors.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Committee on Foreign Relations
Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4227–S4348

Measures Introduced: Nine bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1632–1640, and S. Res. 232–233. Pages S4299–S4300

Measures Considered:

American Health Care Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of H.R. 1628, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017, taking action on the following amendments and motions proposed thereto:

Rejected:

By 45 yeas to 55 nays (Vote No. 169), Enzi (for Paul) Amendment No. 271 (to Amendment No. 267), of a perfecting nature. Pages S4227–52

By 48 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 170), Donnelly motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Finance with instructions.

By 48 yeas to 51 nays (Vote No. 171), Casey motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report back with instructions.

Pending:

McConnell Amendment No. 267, of a perfecting nature. Pages S4252–59, S4262

McConnell (for Daines) Modified Amendment No. 340 (to Amendment No. 267), to provide for comprehensive health insurance coverage for all United States residents, improved healthcare delivery. Page S4263

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 10 yeas to 90 nays (Vote No. 172), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to waive all applicable sections of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and applicable budget resolutions, with respect to Enzi (for Heller) Amendment No. 288 (to Amendment No. 267), to express the sense of the Senate that Medicaid expansion is a priority and that Obamacare must be improved. Subsequently, the point of order that the amendment was in violation of section 313(b)(1)(A) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, was sustained, and the amendment thus fell.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, July 27, 2017, with the time until 2:15 p.m. equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees; and that at 2:15 p.m., Senate vote on or in relation to McConnell (for Daines) Modified Amendment No. 340 (to Amendment No. 267) (listed above).

Pages S4348

Messages from the House:

Measures Referred:

Pages S4299

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S4300–01

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S4301–10

Additional Statements:

Pages S4298–99

Amendments Submitted:

Pages S4301–47

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Pages S4229

Privileges of the Floor:

Pages S4347–48

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—172) Pages S4252, S4262–63

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 7:57 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 27, 2017. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S4348.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2018 for the Department of the Treasury, after receiving testimony from Steven T. Mnuchin, Secretary, John Koskinen, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, and J. Russell
George, Inspector General, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, all of the Department of the Treasury.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Karen Dunn Kelley, of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, and Peter B. Davidson, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, both of the Department of Commerce, and Mark H. Buzby, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration, and Ronald L. Batory, of New Jersey, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, both of the Department of Transportation, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

PUBLIC LANDS LEGISLATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining concluded a hearing to examine S. 32, to provide for conservation, enhanced recreation opportunities, and development of renewable energy in the California Desert Conservation Area, S. 90, to survey the gradient boundary along the Red River in the States of Oklahoma and Texas, S. 357, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain public lands in San Bernardino County, California, to the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, and to accept in return certain exchanged non-public lands, S. 436, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to retire coal preference right lease applications for which the Secretary has made an affirmative commercial quantities determination, to substitute certain land selections of the Navajo Nation, to designate certain wilderness areas, S. 467, to provide for the disposal of certain Bureau of Land Management land in Mohave County, Arizona, S. 468, to establish a procedure for resolving claims to certain rights-of-way, S. 614, to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a pilot program for commercial recreation concessions on certain land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, S. 785, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide for equitable allotment of land to Alaska Native veterans, S. 837, to provide for the conveyance of certain land to Washington County, Utah, to authorize the exchange of Federal land and non-Federal land in the State of Utah, S. 884, to amend the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 to require the Bureau of Land Management to provide a claimant of a small miner waiver from claim maintenance fees with a period of 60 days after written receipt of 1 or more defects is provided to the claimant by registered mail to cure the 1 or more defects or pay the claim maintenance fee, S. 941, to withdraw certain National Forest System land in the Emigrant Crevice area located in the Custer Gallatin National Forest, Park County, Montana, from the mining and mineral leasing laws of the United States, S. 1149, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to repeal a provision limiting the export of timber harvested from land conveyed to the Kake Tribal Corporation under that Act, S. 1230, to prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States by the Secretary of the Interior and Agriculture, S. 1271, to designate certain mountain peaks in the State of Colorado as "Fowler Peak" and "Boskoff Peak", and S. 1548, to designate certain land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service in the State of Oregon as wilderness and national recreation areas and to make additional wild and scenic river designations in the State of Oregon, after receiving testimony from Senators Hatch and Tester; Glenn Casamassa, Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; and John Ruhs, Acting Deputy Director for Operations, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee ordered favorably reported S. 1514, to amend certain Acts to reauthorize those Acts and to increase protections for wildlife, with amendments.

SOUTH SUDAN

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy concluded a hearing to examine South Sudan’s conflict and famine, after receiving testimony from Joshua Meservey, The Heritage Foundation, and Payton Knopf, and Aly Verjee, both of the United States Institute of Peace, all of Washington, D.C.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Michael Arthur Raynor, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Maria E. Brewer, of Indiana, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Sierra Leone, and John P. Desrocher, of New York, to be Ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:
S. 1584, to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to reauthorize the Judicial Conference of the United States to redact sensitive information contained in financial disclosure reports of judicial officers and employees;

S. 873, to amend section 8433 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for flexibility in making withdrawals from the Thrift Savings Fund;

S. 886, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish an Acquisition Review Board in the Department of Homeland Security;

S. 906, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for congressional notification regarding major acquisition program breaches, with an amendment;

S. 1199, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reauthorize the Border Enforcement Security Task Force program within the Department of Homeland Security, with amendments;

S. 938, to require notice of cost-free Federal procurement technical assistance in connection with registration of small business concerns in procurement systems;

S. 1208, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide for an option under the Secure Mail Initiative under which a person to whom a document is sent under that initiative may elect to have the United States Postal Service use the Hold for Pickup service or the Signature Confirmation service in delivering the document;

S. Con. Res. 15, expressing support for the designation of October 28, 2017, as “Honoring the Nation’s First Responders Day”;

H.R. 1293, to amend title 5, United States Code, to require that the Office of Personnel Management submit an annual report to Congress relating to the use of official time by Federal employees;

H.R. 1117, to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to submit a report regarding certain plans regarding assistance to applicants and grantees during the response to an emergency or disaster;

H.R. 1679, to ensure that the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s current efforts to modernize its grant management system includes applicant accessibility and transparency;

H.R. 195, to amend title 44, United States Code, to restrict the distribution of free printed copies of the Federal Register to Members of Congress and other officers and employees of the United States; and

H.R. 194, to ensure the effective processing of mail by Federal agencies, and an original bill to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to reauthorize the Judicial Conference of the United States to redact sensitive information contained in financial disclosure reports of judicial officers and employees.

**ATTEMPTS TO INFLUENCE U.S. ELECTIONS**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee held an oversight hearing to examine the Foreign Agents Registration Act and attempts to influence United States elections, focusing on lessons learned from current and prior Administrations, after receiving testimony from Adam S. Hickey, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Bill Priestap, Assistant Director, Counterintelligence Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Michael E. Horowitz, Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General, all of the Department of Justice. Hearings recessed subject to the call and will meet again on Thursday, July 27, 2017.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:* Committee ordered favorably reported S. 1598, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

**TYPE I DIABETES**

*Special Committee on Aging:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine progress toward a cure for Type I Diabetes, focusing on research and the artificial pancreas, after receiving testimony from Griffin P. Rodgers, Director, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services; Angie and Jonathan Platt, Encino, California, Charlie Albair, Gray, Maine, and Lorynn Watt, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, all of the JDRF 2017 Children’s Congress; and Paul Sparks, New York, New York.
House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 42 public bills, H.R. 3399–3440; and 3 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 73; and H. Res. 476–477, were introduced. Pages H6464–66

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H6467–68

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2937, to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to authorize partnerships between States and nongovernmental entities for the purpose of reclaiming and restoring land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining activities before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–260); and

H. Res. 478, providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (H. Rept. 115–261).

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Coffman to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Recess: The House recessed at 11:19 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Reverend William D. Johnson, Jr., Harbour Lake Baptist Church, Goose Creek, South Carolina.

Unanimous Consent Agreement: Agreed by unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 3219, pursuant to House Resolution 473, amendments numbered 32 and 35 printed in House Report 115–259 may be offered out of sequence.


Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Securely Expediting Clearances Through Reporting Transparency Act of 2017: H.R. 3210, amended, to require the Director of the National Background Investigations Bureau to submit a report on the backlog of personnel security clearance investigations;

Escambia County Land Conveyance Act: H.R. 2370, to authorize Escambia County, Florida, to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and reconveyance;

African American Civil Rights Network Act of 2017: H.R. 1927, amended, to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the African American Civil Rights Network; and

Calling for the unconditional release of United States citizens and legal permanent resident aliens being held for political purposes by the Government of Iran: H. Res. 317, amended, calling for the unconditional release of United States citizens and legal permanent resident aliens being held for political purposes by the Government of Iran.

Unanimous Consent Agreement: Agreed by unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 3219, pursuant to House Resolution 473, amendments numbered 32 and 35 printed in House Report 115–259 may be offered out of sequence.

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115–30 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

Agreed to:

Love amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that expands the permissible uses of MRA funds that have been designated for Member security to include residential security systems that do not constitute structural improvements to Members’ homes;

Kildee amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that increases the House Wounded Warrior Program by $250,000; this program provides wounded veterans with employment opportunities with the House of Representatives;

Cicilline amendment (No. 6 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that increases funds in order to provide designated baby changing stations for members of the public who visit publicly accessible buildings controlled by the Architect of the Capitol, including in both male and female publicly accessible bathrooms;
Russell amendment (No. 9 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that prohibits the printed distribution of the Federal Register to House offices, unless an office requests a printed copy;  Pages H6417–18

Dent en bloc amendment No. 1 consisting of the following amendments printed in H. Rept. 115–259: Barr (No. 12) that transfers $5 million from the Department of Veterans Affairs General Administration account to the VA’s Equine Assisted Therapy Grant Program; Kilhuen (No. 14) that cuts and restores funding for medical services in the Department of Veterans Affairs in order to emphasize the responsibility of the Department Veterans Affairs to provide services to veterans and maintain health care clinics in rural communities; Beyer (No. 15) that requires Vet Centers develop a program to partner with organizations that provide outdoor experiences for veterans as part of a continuum of care that helps support veterans in developing a community of support to treat combat-related injuries; Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM) (No. 16) that prioritizes funding for hiring more doctors, nurses, and medical staff at VA medical centers; Norcross (No. 17) that specifies $5 million of funds for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD) research for the purpose of studying the issues affecting veterans with PTSD and an opioid dependency; Keating (No. 18) that directs the VA to create an opioid abuse healthcare kit for community healthcare providers; Jackson Lee (No. 22) that increases the amount of funding for Supportive Services for Veterans Families by $2 million offset by a reduction of a $2.5 million in the funding for the VA’s Information Technology Systems; Jackson Lee (No. 25) that prohibits the use of funds in contravention of the U.S. Code regarding benefits for homeless veterans in training and outreach programs; and Connolly (No. 26) that prohibits the use of funds for charging homeless veterans a fee to obtain a veterans identification card;  Pages H6419–21

Ratcliffe amendment (No. 20 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that prohibits funds from being used to propose, plan, or execute a new round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC);  Pages H6422–23

Brat amendment (No. 21 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that prohibits the Department of Veterans Affairs from spending money on a study that causes significant pain or distress to dogs; clarifies that training programs or studies of service dogs are not included in the ban on funding;  Pages H6423–24

Bergman amendment (No. 27 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that increases the Investigations account under the Army Corps of Engineers by $1,000,000 and reduces Army Corps Expenses by the same amount;  Page H6425

Simpson en bloc amendment No. 2 consisting of the following amendments printed in H. Rept. 115–259: Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM) (No. 29) that provides $10 million for environmental infrastructure for authorized reimbursements for projects with executed project cooperation agreements that have completed construction or where non-federal sponsors intend to use the funds for additional water resources development activities; Welch (No. 30) that funds the following projects at the authorized level of $10M: section 1177 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (PL 114–322) authorized efforts to construct control gates, spillways, and dam safety improvements for aging flood control reservoirs built by the Army Corps of Engineers; Curbelo (No. 33) that increases funding within the Construction account for Army Corps Environmental Infrastructure by $45,000,000 and decreases the Construction account by $45,000,000; Nolan (No. 34) that increases the Army Corps’ Operation and Maintenance budget by $325,000 with the intention to provide more funding for the Aquatic Nuisance Control Research program currently funded at $675,000; Larson (CT) (No. 45) that increases funding for EERE Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies program; Takano (No. 47) that restores the Energy Innovation Hubs in the Office of Science, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and Nuclear Energy; DeSaulnier (No. 48) that restores $1.2 million in funding for the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program; Stivers (No. 66) that states that none of the funds made available by division D may be used for the Cape Wind Energy Project on the Outer Continental Shelf off Massachusetts, Nantucket Sound; Gallagher (No. 67) that provides $10,000,000 for “Department of Energy—Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability” for energy storage systems demonstrations as authorized by section 641 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 and decreases The Department of Energy-Departmental Administration by the same amount; Brownley (No. 68) that states none of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 2102 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 or section 210 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986; and Rodney Davis (IL) (No. 69) that makes no funds available to the Army Corps of Engineers (Civil Works) to require the intention to provide more funding for the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program; Stivers (No. 66) that states that none of the funds made available by division D may be used for the Cape Wind Energy Project on the Outer Continental Shelf off Massachusetts, Nantucket Sound; Gallagher (No. 67) that provides $10,000,000 for “Department of Energy—Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability” for energy storage systems demonstrations as authorized by section 641 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 and decreases The Department of Energy-Departmental Administration by the same amount; Brownley (No. 68) that states none of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 2102 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 or section 210 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986; and Rodney Davis (IL) (No. 69) that makes no funds available to the Army Corps of Engineers (Civil Works) to require an economic re-evaluation of any project authorized under title VIII of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007;  Pages H6426–27

Mast amendment (No. 32 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that increases Aquatic Plant Control Research Program by $500,000.00 and aims to (1) provide science-based guidance on developing or using new technologies for managing, preventing, and monitoring aquatic invasive species; (2) improve the
efficacy and diversity of available management options; (3) reduce the impacts of aquatic invasive species on federally listed (threatened and endangered) species; (4) reduce operations and maintenance costs associated with aquatic invasive species management; and (5) develop solutions regarding these species based on field needs.

Heck amendment (No. 35 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that provides funding for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study on the extent to which the agency has used low impact development to comply with Sec. 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (P.L. 110–140);

McKinley amendment (No. 42 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that increases fossil energy funding to 2017 funding levels;

Perry amendment (No. 43 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that increases funding for EERE by $15,000,000 and decreases funding for Department of Energy departmental administration by $15,000,000;

Jackson Lee amendment (No. 49 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that redirects $1 million in funding within the Departmental Administration account in order to address environmental concerns in both urban and rural settings;

Foster amendment (No. 51 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that reduces the NNSA Weapons Account by $10,000,000 and increases the account by the same amount, to be used to fight bioterror;

Jackson Lee amendment (No. 56 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that allocates an additional $3 million for post-disaster watershed assessment studies (by a recorded vote of 234 ayes to 192 noes, Roll No. 425);

Jackson Lee amendment (No. 57 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that allocates an additional $100 million for Army Corps of Engineers construction projects related to flood control;

Jackson Lee amendment (No. 58 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that prohibits use of funds in contravention of the Department of Energy Organization Act and addresses the need to increase programs that educate minorities in science, technology, engineering and math;

Gosar amendment (No. 59 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that prohibits use of funds in contravention of the Department of Energy Organization Act and addresses the need to increase programs that educate minorities in science, technology, engineering and math; and

Burgess amendment (No. 61 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that states that limitation amendment pertaining to lightbulb energy efficiency regulations.

Rejected:
Connolly amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to increase funding for the Government Accountability Office (GAO);

Shea Porter amendment (No. 8 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to prohibit the use of funds from Members Representational Allowances to mail any unsolicited mass mailing larger than the size of a standard US postcard;

Mitchell amendment (No. 36 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to reduce by 10% the general administrative expense accounts of the USACE, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Department of the Interior, and Department of Energy. Transfers the savings to the Spending Reduction Account;

Kaptur amendment (No. 37 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to strike section 108 on page 277, line 12, which authorizes the Administrator of the EPA and the Secretary of the Army to withdraw the WOTUS rule without regard to any provision of statute or regulation that establishes a requirement for such withdrawal;

Quigley amendment (No. 40 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to cuts $921 million from the Department of Energy nuclear weapons activities account and add $921 million to the Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy (EERE);

Polis amendment (No. 41 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to increase funds for the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy account by $986,292,000 (to FY17 level) and decrease funds for Fossil Energy Research and Development by $634,600,000 and reduce the National Nuclear Security Administration Weapons Activities account by $552,000,000;

Kihuen (No. 55 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to strike language that would prohibit closure of the Yucca Mountain project;

Perry amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to reduce the appropriation to the Congressional Budget Office (by a recorded vote of 107 ayes to 314 noes, Roll No. 416);

Griffith amendment (No. 5 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to eliminate the Budget Analysis Division of the Congressional Budget Office and transfers the duties of that division to the Office of the Director of CBO (by a recorded vote of 116 ayes to 309 noes, Roll No. 417);

Takano amendment (No. 7 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to appropriate $2.5 million to re-institute the Office of Technology Assessment.
Al Green (TX) amendment (No. 13 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have increased Homeless Veteran Treatment by $70 million, and decreased General expenses account by $70 million;  

Page H6421

Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM) amendment (No. 50 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have prioritized funding for the construction of facilities that NNSA needs to meet its mission;  

Pages H6440–41

Rosen amendment (No. 53 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have transferred to the Spending Reduction Account funding for Department of Energy disposal of defense nuclear waste, including acquisition of real property or facility construction/expansion;  

Pages H6443–44

DelBene amendment (No. 60 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have prohibited the use of funds to be used to implement, administer, or enforce the prevailing wage requirements in subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Davis-Bacon Act); and  

Page H6461

Mitchell amendment (No. 70 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have ensured none of the funds in this act are used to delay the release of the USACE Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) Brand Road Study.  

Pages H6461–62

Proceedings Postponed:

Blackburn amendment (No. 62 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that seeks to provide for a one percent across the board cut to the discretionary spending levels in Division D of the bill; and  

Pages H6459–60

Perry amendment (No. 63 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that seeks to prohibit the use of funds to implement or enforce the final rule published by the Secretary of Energy entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Central Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps”.  

Pages H6460–61

H. Res. 473, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3219) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 232 ayes to 192 noes, Roll No. 415, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 230 yeas to 193 nays, Roll No. 414.  

Pages H6313–26
Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and eleven recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H6325–26, H6325, H6448, H6449, H6449–50, H6450, H6451, H6451–52, H6452, H6453, H6453–54, and H6454. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 12:22 a.m. on Thursday, July 27, 2017.

Committee Meetings

RENEGOTIATING NAFTA: OPPORTUNITIES FOR AGRICULTURE
Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Renegotiating NAFTA: Opportunities for Agriculture”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXPANDING OPTIONS FOR EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS THROUGH EARN-AND-LEARN OPPORTUNITIES
Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development held a hearing entitled “Expanding Options for Employers and Workers Through Earn-and-Learn Opportunities”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

POWERING AMERICA: A REVIEW OF THE OPERATION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NATION’S WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY MARKETS
Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled “Powering America: A Review of the Operation and Effectiveness of the Nation’s Wholesale Electricity Markets”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE EXTENSION OF SPECIAL NEEDS PLANS
Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Examining the Extension of Special Needs Plans”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ASSESSING THE U.S.-QATAR RELATIONSHIP
Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa held a hearing entitled “Assessing the U.S.-Qatar Relationship”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES
Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 2626, the “Strong Visa Integrity Secures America Act”; H.R. 3202, the “Cyber Vulnerability Disclosure Reporting Act”; H.R. 3284, the “Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series Act of 2017”; H.R. 3328, the “Cuban Airport Security Act of 2017”; H.R. 3359, the “Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Act of 2017”; and H. Res. 447, 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 President Donald J. Trump. H.R. 3202, H.R. 3284, H.R. 3328, H.R. 3359, and H. Res. 447 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 2626 and H.R. 2805 were ordered reported, as amended.

OVERSIGHT OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS’ STRATEGIC PLAN
Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Library of Congress’ Strategic Plan”. Testimony was heard from Carla D. Hayden, Librarian of Congress.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES
Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 391, the “Asylum Reform and Border Protection Act of 2017”; and H. Res. 446, resolution of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Attorney General to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the removal of former Federal Bureau of Investigation Director James Comey. H.R. 391 and H. Res. 446 were ordered reported, as amended.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES
Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee completed a markup on H.R. 825, the “Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act”; H.R. 873, the “Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act”; H.R. 965, the “Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park Redesignation Act”; H.R. 1074, to repeal the Act entitled “An Act to confer jurisdiction on the State of Iowa over offenses committed by or against Indians on the Sac and Fox Indian Reservation”; H.R. 1418, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Alexander Creek, Alaska, is and shall be recognized as an eligible Native village under that Act, and for other purposes; H.R. 1491, the “Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Land Affirmation Act of 2017”; H.R. 1547, the “Udall Park Land Exchange Completion Act”; H.R. 2075, the “Crooked River Ranch Fire Protection Act”; H.R. 2083, the “Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act”; H.R. 2199, the “Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform Act of 2017”;

Business Travel Card Program; H.R. 3202, the “Cyber Vulnerability Disclosure Reporting Act”; H.R. 3284, the “Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series Act of 2017”; H.R. 3328, the “Cuban Airport Security Act of 2017”; H.R. 3359, the “Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Act of 2017”; and H. Res. 447, 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 President Donald J. Trump. H.R. 3202, H.R. 3284, H.R. 3328, H.R. 3359, and H. Res. 447 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 2626 and H.R. 2805 were ordered reported, as amended.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY: REAUTHORIZATION IN THE 115TH CONGRESS

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Office of National Drug Control Policy: Reauthorization in the 115th Congress”. Testimony was heard from Richard Baum, Acting Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy; Diana Maurer, Director, Justice and Law Enforcement Issues, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

Committee on Rules: Full Committee, concluded a hearing on H.R. 3219, the “Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2018” [Make America Secure Appropriations Act, 2018] [Meeting II]. The Committee granted, by record vote of 7–4, a structured rule for H.R. 3219. The rule provides that no further general debate shall be in order. The rule provides that the further amendment printed in part A of the Rules Committee report shall be considered as adopted. The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report, amendments en bloc described in section 3 of the resolution, and available pro forma amendments described in section 4 of House Resolution 473. Each further amendment printed in part B of the report may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before action thereon, shall not be subject to amendment except amendments described in section 4 of House Resolution 473, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against further amendments printed in part B of the report or against amendments en bloc described in section 3 of the resolution. The rule provides that it shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee to offer further amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in part B of the report not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment except amendments described in section 4 of House Resolution 473, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. In section 5, the rule provides that it shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of July 27, 2017, or July 28, 2017, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules and that the Speaker or his designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or her designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this section.

STEM AND COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION: PREPARING THE 21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Research and Technology held a hearing entitled “STEM and Computer Science Education: Preparing the 21st Century Workforce”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PROTECTING SMALL BUSINESSES FROM CYBER ATTACKS: THE CYBERSECURITY INSURANCE OPTION

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Protecting Small Businesses from Cyber Attacks: the Cybersecurity Insurance Option”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.
COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY,
JULY 27, 2017

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Rostin Behnam, of New Jersey, Brian D. Quintenz, of Ohio, and Dawn DeBerry Stump, of Texas, each to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 9:30 a.m., SR–328A.


Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: business meeting to consider the nominations of J. Paul Compton, Jr., of Alabama, to be General Counsel, and Anna Maria Farias, of Texas, and Neal J. Rackleff, of Texas, both to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Richard Ashooh, of New Hampshire, to be an Assistant Secretary, and Elizabeth Erin Walsh, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service, both of the Department of Commerce, and Christopher Campbell, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, 9:45 a.m., SD–538.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Joseph Otting, of Nevada, to be Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, and Randal Quarles, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Reappointment), and to be Vice Chairman for Supervision of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Department of State Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2018", and the nominations of David Steele Bohigian, of Missouri, to be Executive Vice President, and Ray Washburne, of Texas, to be President, both of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and Kay Bailey Hutchison, of Texas, to be United States Permanent Representative on the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with the rank and status of Ambassador, Luis E. Arreaga, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala, Nathan Alexander Sales, of Ohio, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large, George Edward Glass, of Oregon, to be Ambassador to the Portuguese Republic, Carl C. Risch, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary (Consular Affairs), Sharon Day, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica, Krishna R. Urs, of Connecticut, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Peru, Kelly Knight Craft, of Kentucky, to be Ambassador to Canada, Kelley Eckels Currie, of Georgia, to be Representative on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to be an Alternate Representative to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Jay Patrick Murray, of Virginia, to be Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to be an Alternate Representative to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Callista L. Gingrich, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Holy See, Robert Wood Johnson IV, of New York, to be Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Lewis M. Eisenberg, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of San Marino, all of the Department of State, 10 a.m., S–116, Capitol.

Committee on the Judiciary: to continue oversight hearings to examine the Foreign Agents Registration Act and attempts to influence United States elections, focusing on lessons learned from current and prior Administrations, 9 a.m., SH–216.

Select Committee on Intelligence: closed business meeting to markup pending intelligence matters, 10 a.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled “Continued Oversight of the Transfer of Excess Military Equipment to Civilian Law Enforcement Agencies”, 10:30 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 767, the “SOAR to Health and Wellness Act of 2017”; H.R. 772, the “Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act of 2017”; H.R. 880, the “MIS-SION ZERO Act”; H.R. 931, the “Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2017”; H.R. 2422, the “Action for Dental Health Act of 2017”; H.R. 3387, the “Drinking Water System Improvement Act”; and H.R. 3388, the “Designating Each Car’s Automation Level Act”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee On Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Annual Testimony of the Secretary of the Treasury on the State of the International Financial System”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, markup on H. Res. 259, expressing concern and condemnation over the political, economic, social, and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela; H. Res. 311, recognizing that for 50 years the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has worked toward stability, prosperity, and peace in Southeast Asia; H.R. 2061, the “North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017”; H.R. 2408, the “Protecting Girls’ Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act”; H. Res. 128, supporting respect for human rights and encouraging inclusive governance in Ethiopia; H. Res. 357, reaffirming the strategic partnership between the United States and Canada, recognizing bilateral cooperation that advances United States national...
interests, and urging increased bilateral cooperation on security, economic issues, and energy, and for other purposes; H. Res. 359, urging the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization and increase pressure on it and its members; H. Res. 449, urging the Government of Kenya and Kenya’s political parties to respect democratic principles and hold credible, peaceful, and transparent elections in August 2017; and H.R. 1918, the "Nicaraguan Investment Conditionality Act of 2017", 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, markup on H. Res. 422, urging adherence to the "one country, two systems" policy as prescribed in the Joint Declaration between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the Government of the People’s Republic of China on the Question of the Hong Kong; H. Res. 445, honoring the life and legacy of Liu Xiaobo for his steadfast commitment to the protection of human rights, political freedoms, free markets, democratic elections, government accountability, and peaceful change in the People’s Republic of China; H.R. 2732, the "North Korea Travel Control Act"; and H.R. 3320, to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes, 2:15 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, hearing entitled "U.S. Interests in the Asia-Pacific: FY 2018 Budget Hearing", 2:30 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.


Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Need for the Balanced Budget Amendment", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law, hearing entitled “Antitrust Concerns and the FDA Approval Process”, 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing on H.R. 1778, to provide that an order by the Secretary of the Interior imposing a moratorium on Federal coal leasing shall not take effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted, and for other purposes; H.R. 3117, the "Transparency and Honesty in Energy Regulations Act of 2017"; and legislation to require congressional approval of any mineral withdrawal or monument designation involving the National Forest System lands in the State of Minnesota, to provide for the renewal of certain mineral leases in such lands, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Health Care, Benefits, and Administrative Rules; and Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Affairs, joint hearing entitled "Challenges to the Freedom of Speech on College Campuses", 9 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on National Security, hearing entitled "Combating Homegrown Terrorism", 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 3180, the "Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018", 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Full Committee, markup on H. Res. 437, of inquiry requesting the President to provide certain documents in the President’s possession; H.R. 1735, the “Community Empowerment for Mitigated Properties Act of 2017”; H.R. 3176, the “Disaster Assistance Fairness and Accountability Act of 2017”; H. Con. Res. 69, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run; and H.R. 1758, the "Brownfields Reauthorization Act of 2017", 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Thursday, July 27
Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 1628, American Health Care Act, and vote on or in relation to McConnell (for Daines) Modified Amendment No. 340 (to Amendment No. 267) at 2:15 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Thursday, July 27
House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Complete consideration of H.R. 3219—Make America Secure Appropriations Act, 2018 (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE
Beatty, Joyce, Ohio, E1062
Bilirakis, Gus M., Fla., E1056
Bishop, Mike, Mich., E1034
Blumenauer, Earl, Ore., E1057
Carson, André, Ind., E1059
Clyburn, James E., S.C., E1061
Cooper, Jim, Tenn., E1063, E1061
Costello, Ryan A., Pa., E1054
Frankel, Lois, Fla., E1054
Green, Gene, Tex., E1064

Holding, George, N.C., E1054
Hoyer, Steny H., Md., E1060
Levin, Sander M., Mich., E1055
MacArthur, Thomas, N.J., E1055, E1056
Mateen, Doris O., Calif., E1055, E1056, E1059
McGovern, James P., Mass., E1059
Meng, Grace, N.Y., E1060
Mitchell, Paul, Mich., E1053
Noem, Kristi L., S.Dak., E1058
Perry, Scott, Pa., E1060
Renacci, James B., Ohio, E1055
Rogers, Harold, Ky., E1007
Rossi, Peter J., Ill., E1060, E1056
Ross, Dennis A., Fla., E1058
Sensenbrenner, P. James, Jr., Wisc., E1053
Sewell, Terri A., Ala., E1053
Shimkus, John, Ill., E1059
Stefanik, Elise M., N.Y., E1056
Vela, Filemon, Tex., E1054, E1056, E1057, E1058, E1060, E1061
Velázquez, Nydia M., N.Y., E1055, E1059
Visclosky, Peter J., Ind., E1053
Wenstrup, Brad R., Ohio, E1056
Wilson, Joe, S.C., E1062

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