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No. 4

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MITCHELL).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

January 8, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable PAUL MITCHELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another year.

We ask Your blessing upon the Members of this people's House as they reconvene for the second session. May they anticipate the opportunities and difficulties that are before them, and before so many Americans, with steadfast determination to work together toward solutions that will benefit their countrymen.

Grant that they be worthy of the responsibilities they have been given by their constituents and truly be the people You have called them to be. May the walls of disagreement that have divided this Assembly be put aside and replaced by a spirit of respect and dignity and, where needed, cooperation.

May Your spirit, O God, be in all our hearts and minds and encourage us to do the works of peace and justice now and always.

May all that we do be done for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

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

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

CALL OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will use the electronic system to ascertain the presence of a quorum.

Members will record their presence by electronic device.

The call was taken by electronic device, and the following Members responded to their names:

[Roll No. 1]

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—357

Abraham	Bridenstine	Collins (NY)	Donovan	Issa	McCarthy
Aderholt	Brooks (AL)	Comer	Doyle, Michael F.	Jackson Lee	McCaul
Aguilar	Brooks (IN)	Comstock	Duffy	Jayapal	McClintock
Allen	Brown (MD)	Conaway	Duncan (SC)	Jeffries	McEachin
Amash	Brownley (CA)	Cook	Duncan (TN)	Jenkins (WV)	McGovern
Amodei	Buchanan	Cooper	Dunn	Johnson (GA)	McHenry
Arrington	Buck	Correa	Ellison	Johnson (LA)	McKinley
Babin	Bucshon	Costa	Emmer	Johnson (OH)	McMorris
Bacon	Budd	Costello (PA)	Engel	Johnson, E. B.	Rodgers
Banks (IN)	Burgess	Courtney	Eshoo	Johnson, Sam	McSally
Barletta	Bustos	Cramer	Espallat	Jones	Meadows
Barr	Butterfield	Crawford	Estes (KS)	Jordan	Meehan
Barragán	Byrne	Crist	Esty (CT)	Joyce (OH)	Meeks
Barton	Capuano	Crowley	Evans	Kaptur	Meng
Bass	Carbajal	Cuellar	Farenthold	Katko	Messer
Beatty	Cardenas	Culberson	Faso	Kelly (IL)	Mitchell
Bera	Carson (IN)	Curbelo (FL)	Ferguson	Kelly (MS)	Moolenaar
Bergman	Cartwright	Curtis	Fitzpatrick	Kelly (PA)	Mooney (WV)
Beyer	Castor (FL)	Davidson	Flores	Kennedy	Moore
Biggs	Castro (TX)	Davis (CA)	Fortenberry	Khanna	Moulton
Bilirakis	Chabot	Delaney	Foster	Kildee	Mullin
Bishop (MI)	Cheney	DeLauro	Fox	Kilmer	Murphy (FL)
Bishop (UT)	Chu, Judy	DelBene	Fox	King (IA)	Nadler
Blum	Cicilline	Demings	Frankel (FL)	King (NY)	Napolitano
Blumenauer	Clay	Denham	Frelinghuysen	Kinzinger	Newhouse
Bonamici	Cleaver	Dent	Fudge	Knight	Norcross
Bost	Clyburn	DeSantis	Gabbard	Krishnamoorthi	Norman
Boyle, Brendan F.	Coffman	DeSaulnier	Gallagher	Kuster (NH)	Nunes
Brady (TX)	Cohen	Deutch	Galego	Labrador	O'Halleran
Brat	Cole	Diaz-Balart	Garamendi	LaHood	O'Rourke
	Collins (GA)	Doggett	Garrett	LaMalfa	Olson
			Gianforte	Lamborn	Palazzo
			Gibbs	Lance	Pallone
			Gohmert	Langevin	Palmer
			Gomez	Larsen (WA)	Panetta
			Gonzalez (TX)	Larson (CT)	Pascarella
			Goodlatte	Latta	Pascrell
			Gosar	Lawson (FL)	Payne
			Gottheimer	Lee	Pearce
			Gowdy	Levin	Pelosi
			Granger	Lewis (GA)	Perry
			Graves (LA)	Lewis (MN)	Peters
			Green, Al	LoBiondo	Peterson
			Griffith	Loeb	Pittenger
			Grijalva	Lofgren	Pocan
			Grothman	Long	Poe (TX)
			Guthrie	Loudermilk	Poliquin
			Handel	Love	Polis
			Harper	Lowenthal	Posey
			Hartzer	Lowey	Raskin
			Hastings	Lucas	Ratcliffe
			Heck	Luetkemeyer	Reed
			Hensarling	Lujan Grisham,	Reichert
			Herrera Beutler	M.	Rice (SC)
			Higgins (LA)	Lujan, Ben Ray	Roby
			Higgins (NY)	MacArthur	Rogers (AL)
			Hill	Maloney,	Rokita
			Himes	Carolyn B.	Ros-Lehtinen
			Hollingsworth	Maloney, Sean	Roskam
			Hoyer	Marchant	Ross
			Hudson	Marino	Rothfus
			Huffman	Marshall	Roybal-Allard
			Huizenga	Massie	Royce (CA)
			Hunter	Mast	Ruiz
			Hurd	Matsui	Ruppersberger

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

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



Printed on recycled paper.

Rush	Smith (WA)	Veasey
Russell	Smucker	Velázquez
Rutherford	Soto	Visclosky
Sánchez	Speier	Wagner
Sanford	Stefanik	Walberg
Sarbanes	Stewart	Walden
Scalise	Stivers	Walker
Schakowsky	Suozzi	Walorski
Schiff	Swalwell (CA)	Walters, Mimi
Schneider	Takano	Waters, Maxine
Schrader	Taylor	Weber (TX)
Schweikert	Tenney	Webster (FL)
Scott (VA)	Thompson (CA)	Welch
Sensenbrenner	Thompson (MS)	Wenstrup
Serrano	Thompson (PA)	Westerman
Sessions	Thornberry	Williams
Sewell (AL)	Tiberi	Wilson (SC)
Sherman	Tipton	Womack
Shimkus	Titus	Woodall
Sinema	Tonko	Yarmuth
Sires	Torres	Yoder
Slaughter	Turner	Yoho
Smith (MO)	Upton	Young (IA)
Smith (NE)	Valadao	Zeldin
Smith (TX)	Vargas	

NOT VOTING—74

Adams	Harris	Rogers (KY)
Bishop (GA)	Hice, Jody B.	Rohrabacher
Black	Holding	Rooney, Francis
Blackburn	Hultgren	Rooney, Thomas J.
Blunt Rochester	Jenkins (KS)	Rosen
Brady (PA)	Keating	Rouzer
Calvert	Kihuen	Ryan (OH)
Carter (GA)	Kind	Scott, Austin
Carter (TX)	Kustoff (TN)	Scott, David
Clark (MA)	Lawrence	Shea-Porter
Clarke (NY)	Lieu, Ted	Shuster
Connolly	Lipinski	Simpson
Cummings	Lynch	Smith (NJ)
Davis, Danny	McCollum	Trott
Davis, Rodney	McNerney	Tsongas
DeFazio	Neal	Vela
DeGette	Noem	Walz
DesJarlais	Nolan	Wasserman
Dingell	Perlmutter	Schultz
Fleischmann	Pingree	Watson Coleman
Gaetz	Price (NC)	Wilson (FL)
Graves (GA)	Quigley	Wittman
Graves (MO)	Renacci	Young (AK)
Green, Gene	Rice (NY)	
Gutiérrez	Richmond	
Hanabusa	Roe (TN)	

□ 1853

The SPEAKER. On this roll call, 357 Members have recorded their presence. A quorum is present.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the proceedings of January 5, 2018, 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 Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois 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.

PROVIDING FOR A COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 677

Resolved, That a committee of two Members be appointed by the Speaker to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of the House has assembled and that the House is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 677

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to House Resolution 677, the Chair appoints the following Members to the committee to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of the House has assembled and that the House is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make:

the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY) and

the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

TO INFORM THE SENATE THAT A QUORUM OF THE HOUSE HAS ASSEMBLED

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 678

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House inform the Senate that a quorum of the House is present and that the House is ready to proceed with business.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR THE HOUR OF MEETING OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 679

Resolved, That unless otherwise ordered, the hour of daily meeting of the House shall be 2 p.m. on Mondays; noon on Tuesdays (or 2 p.m. if no legislative business was conducted on the preceding Monday); noon on Wednesdays and Thursdays; and 9 a.m. on all other days of the week.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENTS OF HON. ALEXANDER X. MOONEY, HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON, HON. PAUL MITCHELL, HON. LARRY BUCSHON, HON. JODEY C. ARRINGTON, AND HON. PATRICK T. MCHENRY TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH THE REMAINDER OF THE 115TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois) laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

THE SPEAKER'S ROOMS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 8, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable Alexander X. Mooney, the Honorable Michael K. Simpson, the Honorable Paul Mitchell, the Honorable Larry Bucshon, the Honorable Jodey C. Arrington, and the Honorable Patrick T. McHenry to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through the remainder of the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointments are approved.

There was no objection.

MAKING IN ORDER MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the order of the House of January 3, 2017, providing for morning-hour debate be extended for the remainder of the 115th Congress, except that House Resolution 679 shall supplant House Resolution 9.

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

There was no objection.

MOMENT OF SILENCE COMMEMORATING SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHOOTING IN TUCSON, ARIZONA

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

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues from Arizona to commemorate the seventh anniversary of the shooting that took place on January 8, 2011, in Tucson, Arizona.

Congresswoman Gabby Giffords was meeting with her constituents when a gunman opened fire. He killed 6 people and injured 13 more, including the Congresswoman.

Last year, when I led this moment of silence, many people in this Chamber could only imagine being the target of a gunman. This year, even more Members of Congress have lived that reality. Majority Whip STEVE SCALISE narrowly escaped with his life, thanks to the quick action of brave Capitol police.

Hateful violence against elected officials is not an attack on any particular

individual. It is an attack on a party. It is an attack on our representative government and the ideals that underpin our democracy.

I believe our Nation can chart a new course. Where there has been division, there can be unity. Where there has been hatred, there can be understanding. Where there has been vitriol, there can be civil discourse.

In the aftermath of the 2011 shooting, Tucson united to support the grieving, honor the victims, and commend our first responders. Just this morning, my hometown dedicated the January 8 Memorial in downtown Tucson.

Tonight, we remember those we lost: Christina-Taylor Green; Dorothy Morris; Judge John Roll; Phyllis Schneek; Dorwan Stoddard; and congressional staffer, Gabriel "Gabe" Zimmerman.

Mr. Speaker, I would now ask that the House rise and observe a moment of silence in remembrance of the victims.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The House will rise for a moment of silence.

□ 1900

EL SALVADOR TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS

(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 to express my disappointment with the administration's decision to terminate temporary protected status—TPS—for hundreds of thousands of Salvadorans. This decision comes just after it terminated TPS for Haiti and Nicaragua.

In 2001, El Salvador was struck by a 7.1 magnitude earthquake that left destruction and tragedy in its wake, resulting in 250,000 Salvadorans coming to the U.S. seeking safety. Since then, they have been key parts of our communities and important contributors for our economy. It is cruel and inhumane to tell them that they will no longer be afforded temporary status here in the U.S. and that they have to go back to unsafe and uncertain conditions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the administration to reverse the decision to terminate TPS for El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Haiti. I ask my colleagues to join me in a letter to the administration asking it to right this wrong and to also extend this status for Honduras.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, each January, we honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for all he did to help us live out the true meaning of our creed.

Dr. King dedicated his life to justice and equality, and he died for it. But even with his ideals, Dr. King would have never had the impact he did if it weren't for his willingness to dedicate his life to service. That path of service is open to us all.

As Dr. King said: "You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve."

Dr. King knew that service isn't about your education or your background. It is about much more than that. He taught us all that all you need to serve is "a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love."

That path is not an easy one, but it is one we can all take, and we should.

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DAY

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, January 9, is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. It is a time to celebrate everything that our law enforcement men and women do for our communities. While it is important to appreciate their courage and bravery, it is also a time to honor them and thank them for their service.

Every single day, police officers go to work not knowing what dangers may lie ahead of them while on the job. They put their lives on the line with a mission to both serve and protect. By the way, these law enforcement personnel are our friends, our neighbors, and even family members.

Last year, 128 police officers lost their lives defending the thin blue line. One of them was Officer Bill Mathews of Wayzata, Minnesota. He was certainly well known and part of the fabric of the community. He is missed not only by a loving family—his wife, Shawn, and son, Wyatt—but also by those he worked with and the residents he served while on patrol in neighborhoods.

Mr. Speaker, those who serve in law enforcement will often say it is a calling, and we honor that calling of service on National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

REMEMBERING DEPUTY SHERIFF DANIEL MCCARTNEY

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

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, last night, after many of us went to bed, one of my constituents called 911. It was everyone's worst nightmare: an intruder in the house.

But then a superhero appeared, in the dark and in the cold, in the form of Pierce County Deputy Sheriff Daniel

McCartney: a husband, a father of three, and a son.

His bravery last night was just one of thousands of times he protected us, having served 10 years in uniform as a police officer and 7 years in the Navy. His bravery last night cost him his life, as he was gunned down by the intruder.

We are all shocked and saddened by his loss. We share our grief with his family, friends, and his brothers and sisters in blue. Some of them will do Deputy McCartney's patrol tonight, in the dark and in the cold, and they will come running when we need them.

Not everyone can do what they do. These are special people with special skills and with special abilities.

May the life of Deputy Sheriff McCartney remain special to all of us.

CONGRATULATING MANVEL MAVERICKS

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, sometimes life matters by the inch. Last month, for the Manvel Mavericks, their dream came down to 12 inches—1 foot. That is how close they came to winning every football game they played in 2017, including the Texas 5-A Division 1 State Championship.

Was Manvel disappointed when they lost?

Heck yes.

Did we shed some tears?

Heck yes.

Are we more proud than ever of our guys?

Hell yes.

That pride comes from how they played, win or lose. An example of our pride is next to me. That is our team listening to our senior quarterback, Kason Martin's final words as a member of the Mavericks. Kason's words rang true then, and they ring true for all eternity.

He said: I'm forever Manvel. I don't care what the scoreboard says. We are the champions. Hoka Hey.

FREEDOM IS NOT PARTISAN

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, freedom is not partisan.

Yesterday, on the corner of Post Oak and Westheimer in Houston, Texas, I stood with Iranian Americans, linking arms with them as they protested and petitioned for a free and democratic Iran. I told them that the cries of hunger and economic needs, and the cries of young people who wanted freedom in Iran were my cries, and that we believed in democracy, freedom, and peace, and that we would not leave them alone.

So, again, I say to them: We stand not as Democrats and Republicans, but as Americans, wanting for a free government that allows the people's voices

to be heard, and that despotic governments have no place in a society that relishes and thirsts after freedom.

I want to thank the law enforcement officers who stood by in the cold—yes, the cold in Houston—and allowed for a peaceful protest in this time of honoring them a national law enforcement commemoration. Again, I want to thank them, for they go to places where they are needed and they allow democracy to reign. I will say democracy will reign in Iran, and Iranian Americans are not alone in their quest for freedom, democracy, and peace.

TRIBUTE TO NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY BISONS

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

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the North Dakota State University Bisons, who, on Saturday, won their sixth NCAA Division 1 football championship in the last 7 years.

When Chris Kliemen was named head coach at NDSU 3 years ago, he inherited a tradition of excellence and made it a dynasty. Merriam-Webster defines “dynasty” as “a powerful group or family that maintains its position for a considerable time.”

Well, Mr. Speaker, winning six national championships in 7 years certainly meets the second half of that definition. And anyone who knows Bison football knows that they are a family. It is what makes them special.

Quarterback Easton Stick was named the Game’s Most Outstanding Player, but it was the Bison defense that shined the brightest on Saturday, holding James Madison University’s explosive offense to a season low 241 yards and just 13 points.

Perhaps it was linebacker Nick DeLuca who put it best when asked how the Bison defense was able to respond so spectacularly in so many difficult situations. He simply said: “Just remain focused and calm.”

Good advice, Nick, in football and politics.

Congratulations, Bisons. You make us proud.

TERMINATION OF TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR EL SALVADOR

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

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the President’s cruel decision to terminate temporary protected status for El Salvador, hurting 200,000 people and their 193,000 U.S. citizen children.

Mr. Speaker, many of these people have lived alongside us as friends and neighbors for decades. It is unfathomable that the administration would deport people back to one of the most dangerous parts of the world.

When it comes to the rights and lives of immigrants, we cannot be silent. Defending temporary protected status to protect those fleeing war, disease, and natural disasters is a priority that crosses party lines and political barriers. That is why, last month, I joined my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to introduce the ASPIRE-TPS Act that would help bring justice for immigrants who are deeply woven into the fabric of our society. It is apparent that congressional action is necessary now more than ever to protect people with TPS.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to help us advance bipartisan legislation to protect the hundreds of thousands of people who rely on these protections.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COMER). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

TAX RELIEF IS UPON US

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last month, Congress passed the historic Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Tax relief is upon us for American workers, families, and job creators. Come February, there will be more money in your paycheck.

Workers are already seeing the benefits of this historic tax cuts bill. Businesses across the country are now giving bonuses, pay raises, and making new investments that will get our economy back on track.

Pennsylvania’s own AccuWeather provided a year-end bonus to all employees due to the strong confidence in the United States and global economy now that tax reform passed.

And AccuWeather isn’t alone. Thanks to tax reform, Wells Fargo boosted its minimum wage for employees to \$15 an hour and targeted \$400 million in nonprofit donations this year. AT&T paid more than 200,000 U.S. employees \$1,000 each and increased its capital spending budget by \$1 billion. Sinclair Broadcast Group paid \$1,000 bonuses to nearly 9,000 employees.

These are just some of the many businesses that are rewarding their employees, thanks to tax reform, fair and simple.

□ 1915

SHAME TRAFFICKERS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the deviants of the slave trade operate all around us. Human trafficking occurs in our country, our States, and in our cities.

January, Human Trafficking Awareness Month, seeks to bring light to this

scourge against humanity: nothing more than modern-day slavery.

We must not only remain vigilant but must go after the buyers and sellers in the sex trafficking trade. This is one of them right here.

That is why I have introduced, along with CAROLYN MALONEY, the Shame Act, to expose the identity of convicted traffickers and buyers of human beings.

The Shame Act allows judges to publish the names and photographs of convicted traffickers and buyers in public places, such as on billboards.

Mr. Speaker, as a judge in Texas, I successfully used shame punishment. It worked. Dubbed “poetic justice” by the media, I learned that the last thing criminals want are their faces exposed to the public.

Traffickers and buyers must know they cannot hide behind their dastardly crimes. It is time to send a message loud and clear about human trafficking: not in our cities, not in our States, not in our Nation, not anymore.

And that is just the way it is.

HONORING LYNN RANEY

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lynn Raney, who passed away on December 28. He was a talented artist, a dedicated State worker, an admired teacher, and a respected member of our central Illinois community.

Lynn found great joy in serving others. I got to know him during his time working in public service for the State of Illinois.

There was never a day that Lynn did not have a smile on his face, even in the midst of difficult family health tragedies. As a matter of fact, Lynn Raney helped set up a press conference where he found out he was being laid off from the State of Illinois by a new Governor.

I have no doubt that Lynn will be remembered well for his talent as an artist. Not only did he teach art to high school students, but he was known for the care and creativity he put into his annual Christmas cards. Just before this Christmas, I received one of his cards, and I will cherish it even more after his passing.

I am proud to honor Lynn today. He left a lasting impact on everyone who knew him. He was a good friend, a devoted husband, and a loving father, who will be missed by many. My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

REDFIELD SNOW

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a new record in Oswego County, New York. The town of Redfield now has the record for the most snowfall in 48 hours. An astonishing 62 inches of snow fell in this idyllic town along the Salmon River with only 550 people near Lake Ontario.

While subzero temperatures and blizzard conditions keep most people inside our homes, National Weather Service observer and constituent Carolyn Yerdon braved the elements to announce the record shattering news standing atop a 5-foot snow bank.

The total snowfall breaks the world record of 57 inches in a 48-hour period set in 2008 by Bennetts Bridge in Oswego County.

Home to some of the harshest winter conditions in the country, upstate New York experiences heavy lake-effect snow, high winds, and bitter temperatures all season long.

As snow blankets our region this winter, we are grateful to our first responders, who continue to go above and beyond and keep our roadsides safe, to protect and rescue some stranded vulnerable citizens—yes, in 5 feet of snow, you can lose people—and providing assistance to all our communities.

A special thank you to Carolyn Yerdon, our special National Weather Service employee. May I just say her favorite words: Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR AMERICANS WORKING FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, today there is an estimated 11 million Americans working for small businesses who lack employer-sponsored health insurance.

The reality is that families across the country are struggling to afford coverage; they are priced out of plans and left with few options.

Last week, President Trump's Department of Labor proposed a rule to help these 11 million Americans, a move deserving of ample support.

The rule would enhance the market leverage of small groups, as well as individuals, by giving associations a meaningful role on the same playing field large corporations enjoy.

For example, a farmer will be able to buy insurance through the national Farm Bureau plan, or a restaurant manager could let his employees buy insurance through the National Restaurant Association.

Association plans are able to reduce costs by sharing risks in a larger pool, allowing flexibility to design plans to meet workers' needs, increasing negotiating power to lower prices with providers or drug prices.

It is not a complete fix for ObamaCare, but it is certainly a big

leap in the right direction, allowing workers that are in small businesses to have more choices, better than what they have now.

THE HISTORY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS AND THE LEGACY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, I appreciate this honor and this opportunity, as well as all the other Members, for giving me this opportunity to kick off the second session of the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hours.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks, including any extraneous material, on the subject of this order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues, as I said earlier, for this opportunity. This is truly an opportunity for a young man who comes from the city of Philadelphia, who grew up in the streets of Philadelphia, and who had the opportunity to be a product of the public school system, a product of community college and La Salle University, standing here today in the seat with many of my predecessors, five African Americans from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, starting off with Robert N.C. Nix.

Our theme tonight is the history of the CBC and the legacy of Martin Luther King. Next week we begin the celebration of the birthday of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King.

Dr. King was not only a great man but a great patriot, who loved America and the ideas of the underpinning of our democracy.

To kick off our discussion, I want to open up with two Dr. King comments that really capture our current political climate and what is at stake. The first quote is: "We may have come over here on different ships, but we are all in the same boat now." Dr. King.

The second quote is: "Of all forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane." Dr. Martin Luther King.

When we think about this great Nation and our leaders before us like Dr. King, who came together to lay a framework for equal pay, fair wages, healthcare, equality in housing, so much more we are reminded of what is at stake and how much we have to lose in this current political climate. We

have a lot to lose under the current administration's destructive policies.

Dr. King would be greatly disappointed at many things going on in this country right now that affects all of our communities.

We are in the business of doing no harm, but we must continue to fight to show results and solutions to help move our neighborhoods forward. Dr. King fought to move our neighborhoods forward when the odds were stacked against him. There are many examples of his life, legacy, and lasting impact in the city of Philadelphia, which is in the Second Congressional District.

Take, for example, the Dr. King memorial and mural at 40th and Lancaster Avenue—he had a rally of 10,000 people when Dr. King was there—and the yearly luncheon that the late C. Delores Tucker sponsored in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King.

It is important to recognize his connection to Pennsylvania and the divinity school in Chester in Delaware County.

Dr. King came many times to the city of Philadelphia and to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He had a huge influence on a lot of us.

On this April 4, 50 years later, when I was in junior high school, entering high school in 1968, he had a huge affect on me. He was someone who walked with kings and queens. He demonstrated to all of us with that message of peace. He was relentless in terms of standing up for freedom and justice. He showed all of us what it is to be a leader.

You will hear, over the next 60 minutes, a number of my colleagues who have all either directly or indirectly been connected with Dr. Martin Luther King and what he has meant.

We need to conduct this as a large teach-in. That is what this should be. This should be a teach-in so we can share with everybody in this country what Dr. King was about and the importance.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND), the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania, Congressman DWIGHT EVANS, for allowing me this time to speak.

Mr. Speaker, I heard Mr. EVANS talk about Dr. King's roots and influence in Pennsylvania. I just want to note, and this would only be a small moment of my remarks, that as a Morehouse man, we remind everyone that Dr. King started at the age of 16 in his matriculation through college and his embarking on the world knowledge that he had at Morehouse College, which I spent just a few years at and graduated from myself.

I hope that there are a number of young people watching today, as well as those seniors whose backs I stand on, because a lot of people talk about Dr. King's dream, but I just want to say here publicly, and I have said it

privately so many times, we don't honor the dream. Everybody has a dream. The question becomes whether you have the courage, the fortitude, and the willingness to sacrifice your future to make that dream come true.

In this body, and as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, which now represents almost 78 million Americans in serving with real icons who paved the way to make this a more perfect union, I appreciate now more than ever the sacrifice that went into making this country what it is, and because of that and because of this time, let me just give 30 seconds of my history.

My mother is from the poorest place in the United States. She had 15 brothers and sisters, and all she had was a mother, a very dedicated mother who was a housekeeper we call a domestic or some other fancy term now. She was a woman who woke up every day, who would clean other people's houses to make sure that her 15 kids had an opportunity at a better future. You know what created that better future? Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

My mother went to Southern University. She shared a jacket with her sister, who was still in Lake Providence, which is about 200 miles away. I don't know how you do it, but they did it.

My mother, in that HBCU, because of the work of many people, was able to achieve an education, which is the best way to lift yourself out of poverty. She instilled in me two things: one, Cedric, you have to work hard, you have to do everything twice as good as everyone else so you can make it; and two, once you make it, you have an obligation to give back.

That is what is so special about Dr. Martin Luther King and the dream and the day that we celebrate. A lot of young people sit around and say: Oh, when I make it, I am going to give back. Oh, when I grow up, I am going to do something.

Well, Dr. King did everything that he did at a young age. If you talk about the Montgomery bus boycott, if you talk about our leaders in the civil rights movement, they didn't wait to grow into leadership. They created their own path. The remarkable thing is many of them sacrificed not only their future but their life.

When you talk about Dr. King, and to a lot of my middle class African Americans, let me say this, Dr. King could have sat back and said: I have mine, you get yours, or my family is comfortable, so I will take the easy path.

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So for all of us who are doing well, remember, there are a whole bunch of people who are not. We have this ice storm all across the country right now where we are hunkering down in our homes with heat. We have to remember that there are people who are hunkering down on the street, sleeping outside under a blanket because that is all they have.

So we have to, in the spirit of Dr. King, remember that we are the greatest country on Earth; and if we don't think it is a perfect Union, we have to make it a more perfect Union. Even if it costs us our life, like it did Dr. King, and it cost him his life in Memphis, fighting for sanitation workers; we have to fight for the least among us because this country is only as great as is the least among us.

As long as there are people sleeping on the streets during this blizzard, that means this country is failing. When there are kids in public school that are destined for failure because we have not funded our public schools, this country is failing.

So I would just say that, of all of the great things about Dr. King, the one thing that we should remember is his sacrifice, his courage, and the fact that he gave his life to make our lives a better life.

Let me just say that, as I grew up going to some of the best schools in the country, integrated schools because of Dr. King and because of the person whom I am going to introduce, I know I stand on their backs, and I know that I have a lot of work to do to make sure that the generation behind me has that ability.

But sacrifice is not easy, and when I think of it, I think of people that I read about in my textbooks, people I studied, people I admired, people whose autograph I sought. And now I actually get to call this gentleman, this distinguished gentleman from Georgia, a friend.

But he is more than a friend; he is an icon; he is a trailblazer; he is a person who saved this country; and he, as a teenager, started his civil rights fight. He marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, knowing that there was hatred on the other side; and he met hatred with love, and he was beaten because he loved and they hated.

But do you know what he did? He marched again.

Do you know what he did? He ran for Congress.

Do you know what he did? He welcomed me into this Congress, and he paved a better way for generations so that we could go to some of the best schools in the country.

Mr. Speaker, I have an opportunity to present, introduce, one of the greatest Americans to ever walk on the face of this Earth, one who has sacrificed blood, sweat, tears, and who has stayed on his knees constantly, praying for a better country.

He reminds us all that the Lord will order your steps, but you have to move your feet. He moved his feet across that Edmund Pettus Bridge, and he was beaten so that I could vote without counting how many bubbles in a bar of soap or how many jellybeans in a big tub.

Mr. Speaker, the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS) will now yield to one of the greatest Americans and the greatest Member

serving in this House of Representatives, the Honorable JOHN LEWIS from Georgia.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank our chairman, and that is why he is our chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, because you just heard him so eloquently express his thoughts and his feelings. He has done a fantastic job as the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, and I thank him. I always recognize the importance of what he brings to all of us.

The gentleman is correct about the next person. I want to add my voice to what he just said. I was 11 years old when he went across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. I recall seeing it on CBS. I did not understand it, but, now, like the chairman, I serve in this body with him. I am a part of this body. And as I watch him and as I listen to him, all of the drive and the energy that he has—and he is always extremely positive. I have not met a person who is more positive and optimistic about the future of this country as he says and talks about walking in his shoes. I remember that he said that.

I remember that opportunity when I was down in Alabama on that Edmund Pettus Bridge—along with him and my good friend and colleague from Alabama, TERRI SEWELL—that I thought to myself, I said: “Self, here I am with Congressman LEWIS.” He is someone who is renowned in this body and in this country and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend, Mr. EVANS, for yielding, and thank you to the chairman of the CBC, CEDRIC RICHMOND.

Mr. Speaker, it is true that I grew up in rural Alabama, 50 miles from Montgomery, outside of a little place called Troy. It is true that my father was a sharecropper, a tenant farmer.

But in 1944, when I was 4 years old—and I do remember when I was 4—my father had saved \$300, and a man sold him 110 acres of land. We picked cotton. We gathered peanuts. We pulled corn.

Sometimes I would be out there working in the field and I would fall behind, and my mother would say: “Boy, you need to catch up.”

I would say: “This is hard work.”

And she would say: “Hard work never killed anybody.”

I said: “Well, it's about to kill me.”

But one day, 15 years old, in the 10th grade, I heard of Martin Luther King, Jr. I heard of Rosa Parks in 1955. The action of Rosa Parks, the words and leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., inspired me to find a way to get in the way. So 2 years later, I wrote a letter to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1957, and I told him, in this little letter, that I wanted to attend a State-supported college called Troy State, now known as Troy University. It didn't admit Black students.

Dr. King wrote me back and sent me a round-trip Greyhound bus ticket and

invited me to come to Montgomery to meet with him. In the meantime, I had been accepted at a little college in Nashville, Tennessee, American Baptist College.

Dr. King got back in touch with me and said: "When you are home for spring break, come and see me."

So, in 1958, I boarded a Greyhound bus and traveled from Troy to Montgomery, and a young lawyer by the name of Fred Gray, who had been a lawyer for Rosa Parks and for Dr. King, met me at the First Baptist Church, pastored by the Reverend Ralph Abernathy, and took me in to see Dr. King and Reverend Ralph Abernathy.

Martin Luther King, Jr., said: "Are you the boy from Troy? Are you John Lewis?"

I said: "Dr. King, I am John Robert Lewis," but he still called me "the boy from Troy."

This man inspired me to stand up, to find a way to get in the way or find a way to get in trouble, in good trouble, necessary trouble.

He said: "If you want to go to Troy State, we will help you, but we may need to file a suit against the State of Alabama, against Troy State. Go back and have a discussion with your mother and your father. Tell them their home may be bombed or burned. They can lose their land."

I went back. My mother was so afraid and my father was afraid, so I continued to study in Nashville. From time to time, Dr. King would come and visit Nashville and speak at mass meetings and rallies. But he inspired me, along with Rosa Parks and others, to get involved.

He led the Montgomery bus boycott. For more than 381 days, people walked the streets; they shared cars and rides; they stood in unmovable lines; but they never gave up.

Dr. King inspired us to stand up. He inspired us to believe in the philosophy and the discipline of nonviolence. We would be sitting at a lunch counter waiting to be served, and someone would come up and spit on us or put a lighted cigarette down our backs or in our hair, pour hot water or hot coffee on us, but we obeyed his instructions.

So I got arrested a few times during the sixties, 45 times, but I never gave up.

Just think, in 1961, the same year that President Barack Obama was born, Black people and White people couldn't leave the city sitting together to travel on a Greyhound bus or a Trailways bus through the South.

People were arrested, jailed, beaten, but Dr. King met us in Montgomery, sheltered us in a church. One night, while we were there in that church, when people were threatening to bomb the church or burn it down, he made a call to Robert Kennedy and told him about what was happening. Robert Kennedy communicated to his brother, President Kennedy, and the President put the city of Montgomery under martial law.

If it hadn't been for Martin Luther King, Jr., Robert Kennedy, and President Kennedy, some of us would have died in that church. But it led to the desegregation of public transportation all across the American South.

More than 400 people—400 of us—arrested in Jackson, Mississippi. We filled the city jail, the county jail, and, later, the penitentiary at Parchman. But Martin Luther King, Jr., changed America forever. He taught us how to live and he taught us how to die. He taught us to be brave, to be courageous, to be bold.

If it hadn't been for Martin Luther King, Jr., I don't know what would have happened to many of us, happened to America. Many of us of color, whether we are Black, Latino, Asian American, or Native American, wouldn't be in this body. He opened up the political process.

He was a man who believed in the way of peace, the way of love, believed in the philosophy and the discipline of nonviolence.

In a few days, a few weeks, we will commemorate his passing. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968. I was in Indianapolis, Indiana, with Robert Kennedy when we heard that Dr. King had been assassinated. We heard that he had been shot. Robert Kennedy announced that he had died. And I think, when Dr. King died, something died in all of us; something died in America.

He left us the way of peace, the way of love, the way of hope, and I hope that all young people and people not so young will commemorate and learn something about the teachings of Dr. King.

I want to thank the chair of our caucus, Congressman RICHMOND, and Mr. EVANS, my friend and brother, for having the vision to hold this teach-in tonight; and I hope we will do more to explain to the American people and people around the world what Dr. King meant not just to Americans, but to the world community.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I hope that what we just heard, and to our chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, that we can, either through social media or whatever way, share that that was a learning experience that just took place. To have Congressman LEWIS, who was there, who was on the front lines, who is not talking about something he read but something he has demonstrated through his own experience, that all of us—not just the Congressional Black Caucus, but this entire House—should thank him for his service and for being a patriot and for what he has expressed.

So I personally want to thank the Honorable JOHN LEWIS for taking that opportunity just to educate us, because we all need education, and we are never too wise to think we don't need someone to talk to us.

Speaking of education, another good colleague from the great State of Texas—I know a little bit about that State. Everything is big in that State,

they tell me. She is in a seat that Congresswoman Jordan used to hold, and Mickey Leland, and she, in her own right, is doing a lot. I have watched her in the period of time I have been here, just a year. She is a fantastic person, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, from the 18th Congressional District of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CURTIS). The gentleman has 36 minutes remaining.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman EVANS for the mighty leadership that he has given and for the service that he gives to his constituents in Philadelphia. I accept his challenge, and I accept the challenge of my chairman, CEDRIC RICHMOND, who told a story that hopefully will be an inspiration and a guide for all of those who believe that they are not yet mature enough to serve, to give, to offer to the beloved community that Dr. King so aptly speaks of.

What can I say about JOHN LEWIS, whose moral guidance, but whose bloody brow, was never bowed. I thank Congressman LEWIS not only for the straight talk but the loving talk. To my colleagues who are here, I know that each will have a moment, so allow me to take just a moment to be able to offer my tribute and commemoration of Dr. King's life. What a powerful year we face in 2018, and I am so grateful to have left 2017.

I believe that this gives a fresh look to America. I looked at the movie "Remember the Titans," and maybe you saw that with Denzel Washington, and it reflected a racial conflict with football players just outside of Washington in Virginia. It is a moving story of how when you get young people together, we can break the chains of racism and differences. It brought tears to my eyes, because in 2017, we went that journey again, and I was hoping that we would come in this year, the commemoration year, to accept Dr. King's challenge of a beloved community.

I salute my community of Houston. Some say there was no civil rights movement, and I beg to differ with them. Dr. King came one time, and the clergy gathered, most of them gathered, those who were afraid; we know that most were not. They were all ready to have a big rally, and wouldn't you know it, a bomb threat. But our Houstonians were ready to march and to be out front in spite of the fear of a bomb.

I believe that every community that Dr. King was either invited to or that he went to, there were people of courage who were willing to stand up and embrace freedom in the face of devastating potential disaster.

So let me just say that my greatest claim for this legacy is my fight as a

younger person to be part of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. It will be my greatest honor to have been able to work for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, to walk in that office on Auburn, that I believe may not be to meet Ralph David Abernathy because it was after the death of Dr. King, to know James Orange, and to know the brother that walked with the wooden leg, and to know Andy in a way that they were still engaged in Dr. King's work.

I am reminded of the message that he has given to us. And as Chairman RICHMOND said, he was young, and he asked the question: "Life's most persistent and nagging question is"—he said—"what are you doing for others?" And I think we as members of the Congressional Black Caucus and the adjunct of the foundation that works for young people, we have no doubt in what we are doing for others.

But Dr. King gave us the words: "I would like somebody to mention"—as he talked about his death on February 4, 1968, this is what we should be doing in 2018. We should be talking about what we are doing in commemoration. "I would like somebody to mention on that day Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to give his life serving others." And he said: "I want you to say on that day"—that I might have lost my life—"that I did try in my life . . . to love and serve humanity."

So as I close, I want to remind those of us who have not yet made our journey to something that brought us closer to Dr. King that this body, this group of Republicans and Democrats, this administration, we need to unshackle ourselves. This question of race needs to be thrown under the bus of the beloved community. And we need to be able to dream like Dr. King did and say—but he learned to use his imagination when he saw this separation and his dreams to see right through those "White Only" signs—to see the reality that all men and women, regardless of our place of origin, their gender, or their creed, are created equal. What a visionary.

And so I close with his braveness in two points: his answer to the question about who are we as a nation and what this citizenship should mean. And he simply turned us back to the Declaration of Independence and said that we simply should have citizens who can live out the words written in the Declaration of Independence that have a place in this Nation's Bill of Rights. We simply want to be like others.

And he took this courage to his death, for at the end of his life, he was not ashamed to go to Riverside Church and stand against the Vietnam war while others looked aghast, afraid. Why are you stepping out of your box? Dr. King said: I believe in the beloved community, a dreamer with works and actions.

And so I close in that faithful journey that he made that we will be commemorating all converging in Mem-

phis, Tennessee, and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees who were forged and born in the shadow of two sanitation workers who were killed in the line of their duty, and Dr. King felt compelled to be there.

When do we feel compelled: on the tax bill, on CHIP, on fully qualified healthcare, on affirmative action? When are we taking this, in essence, to the mat? Because that is what Dr. King did. He took it to the mat. And he went to the mat in the face of violence, and he told us, in his last words, that he had been to the mountaintop. He had seen the promised land. And he did not know if he would get there someday, but he knew that we as a people would pine away to that pathway.

I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, next Monday, January 15, the nation observes for the 33rd time the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

Each year this day is set aside for Americans to celebrate the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America.

The Martin Luther King Holiday reminds us that nothing is impossible when we are guided by the better angels of our nature.

Dr. King's inspiring words filled a great void in our nation, and answered our collective longing to become a country that truly lived by its noblest principles.

Yet, Dr. King knew that it was not enough just to talk the talk; he knew that he had to walk the walk for his words to be credible.

And so we commemorate on this holiday the man of action, who put his life on the line for freedom and justice every day.

We honor the courage of a man who endured harassment, threats and beatings, and even bombings.

We commemorate the man who went to jail 29 times to achieve freedom for others, and who knew he would pay the ultimate price for his leadership, but kept on marching and protesting and organizing anyway.

Dr. King once said that we all have to decide whether we "will walk in the light of creative altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness.

"Life's most persistent and nagging question," he said, is "what are you doing for others?"

And when Dr. King talked about the end of his mortal life in one of his last sermons, on February 4, 1968 in the pulpit of Ebenezer Baptist Church, even then he lifted up the value of service as the hallmark of a full life:

I'd like somebody to mention on that day Martin Luther King, Jr. tried to give his life serving others," he said. "I want you to say on that day, that I did try in my life . . . to love and serve humanity.

We should also remember that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was, above all, a person who was always willing to speak truth to power.

There is perhaps no better example of Dr. King's moral integrity and consistency than his criticism of the Vietnam War being waged by the Johnson Administration, an administration that was otherwise a friend and champion of civil and human rights.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia on January 15, 1929.

Martin's youth was spent in our country's Deep South, then run by Jim Crow and the Ku Klux Klan.

For young African-Americans, it was an environment even more dangerous than the one they face today.

A young Martin managed to find a dream, one that he pieced together from his readings—in the Bible, and literature, and just about any other book he could get his hands on.

And not only did those books help him educate himself, but they also allowed him to work through the destructive and traumatic experiences of blatant discrimination, and the discriminatory abuse inflicted on himself, his family, and his people.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that we celebrate here today could have turned out to be just another African-American who would have had to learn to be happy with what he had, and what he was allowed.

But he learned to use his imagination and his dreams to see right through those "White Only" signs—to see the reality that all men, and women, regardless of their place of origin, their gender, or their creed, are created equal.

Through his studies, Dr. King learned that training his mind and broadening his intellect effectively shielded him from the demoralizing effects of segregation and discrimination.

Dr. King was a dreamer and his dreams were a tool through which he was able to lift his mind beyond the reality of his segregated society, and into a realm where it was possible that white and black, red and brown, and all others live and work alongside each other and prosper.

But the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was not an idle daydreamer.

He shared his visions through speeches that motivated others to join in his nonviolent effort to lift themselves from poverty and isolation by creating a new America where equal justice and institutions were facts of life.

In the Declaration of Independence in 1776, Thomas Jefferson wrote, "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all Men are Created Equal."

At that time and for centuries to come, African-Americans were historically, culturally, and legally excluded from inclusion in that declaration.

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" Speech, delivered 54 years ago, on August 28, 1963, was a clarion call to each citizen of this great nation that we still hear today.

His request was simply and eloquently conveyed—he asked America to allow its citizens to live out the words written in its Declaration of Independence and to have a place in this nation's Bill of Rights.

The 1960s were a time of great crisis and conflict.

The dreams of the people of this country were filled with troubling images that arose like lava from the nightmares of violence and the crises they had to face, both domestically and internationally.

It was the decade of the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Vietnam War, and the assassinations of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Malcolm X, Presidential Candidate Robert Kennedy, and the man we honor here today.

Dr. Martin Luther King's dream helped us turn the corner on civil rights.

It started when Dr. King led the Montgomery Bus Boycott, with 4, Rosa Parks and others,

which lasted for 381 days, and ended when the United States Supreme Court outlawed racial segregation on all public transportation.

But the dream did not die there.

It continued started with a peaceful march for suffrage that started in Selma, Alabama on March 7, 1965—a march that ended with violence at the hands of law enforcement officers as the marchers crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Dr. King used several nonviolent tactics to protest against Jim Crow Laws in the South and he organized and led demonstrations for desegregation, labor and voting rights.

On April 4, 1967, at Riverside Church in New York City, he spoke out against the Vietnam War, when he saw the devastation that his nation was causing abroad and the effect that it had on the American men and women sent overseas.

When the life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King was stolen from us, he was a very young 39 years old.

People remember that Dr. King died in Memphis, but few can remember why he was there.

On that fateful day in 1968 Dr. King came to Memphis to support a strike by the city's sanitation workers.

The garbage men there had recently formed a chapter of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees to demand better wages and working conditions.

But the city refused to recognize their union, and when the 1,300 employees walked off their jobs the police broke up the rally with mace and Billy clubs.

It was then that union leaders invited Dr. King to Memphis.

Despite the danger he might face entering such a volatile situation, it was an invitation he could not refuse.

Not because he longed for danger, but because the labor movement was intertwined with the civil rights movement for which he had given up so many years of his life.

The death of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will never overshadow his life.

That is his legacy as a dreamer and a man of action.

It is a legacy of hope, tempered with peace.

It is a legacy not quite yet fulfilled.

I hope that Dr. King's vision of equality under the law is never lost to us, who in the present, toil in times of unevenness in our equality.

For without that vision—without that dream—we can never continue to improve on the human condition.

For those who have already forgotten, or whose vision is already clouded with the fog of complacency, I would like to recite the immortal words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former shareholders will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the State of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but for the content of their character.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day down in Alabama with its vicious racists, with its Governor having his lips dripping with words of interposition and nullification—one day right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough place will be made plain and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

Dr. King's dream did not stop at racial equality, his ultimate dream was one of human equality and dignity.

There is no doubt that Dr. King wished and worked for freedom and justice for every individual in America.

He was in midst of planning the 1968 Poor People's Campaign for Jobs and Justice when he struck down by the dark deed of an assassin on April 4, 1968.

It is for us, the living, to continue that fight today and forever, in the great spirit that inspired the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, the next person I would like to yield to, my colleague from Texas gave a great lead-in for her, from the great State of California, as Dr. King stood up against the Vietnam war. She knows a little bit about standing up.

If you know anything about Honorable BARBARA LEE from the 13th Congressional District, you would know she doesn't mind being by herself.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from the great State of California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman EVANS for yielding, for that gracious introduction, but, more importantly, for his magnificent leadership. He has come to Congress hitting the ground running, and it truly has been and is in the spirit of Dr. King, so I thank the gentleman very much.

And to our chair, Congressman CEDRIC RICHMOND, I want to thank him for his steady leadership—and it is steady—of our caucus and for helping us to stay focused on this Special Order on the evenings which we do these to honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was and is our drum major for justice.

To Congressman JOHN LEWIS, I just have to say to him that I owe him a debt of gratitude. I would not be here if it were not for him.

And I want to say, on behalf of my young people at the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center who have a chance to be with him every year—now it has been about 17 years—how much he and Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL—how much they have touched their lives and have turned their lives around, and how they understand now what fighting for justice and peace really means by being part of their efforts and by their mentoring them and teaching them that the beloved community is not only a dream but can be real. So I thank Congressman LEWIS so much. It is an honor to know the gentleman and to serve with him.

This year, as we remember the man in the movement that transformed really the soul of America, it is really important that we honor the fullness of Dr. King's dream. So while we remember Dr. King's birthday this month, we also are reminded that it was 50 years ago, on April 4, that he lost his life to an assassin's bullet.

Dr. King was a crusader for voting rights and peace, but he was also a warrior for economic justice and ending poverty. In fact, one of Dr. King's most memorable speeches, of course, "I've Been to the Mountaintop," it was given in Memphis, Tennessee, at a time when Dr. King was determined to transform the civil rights movement into an intersectional economic justice revolution.

A few months before his death, two young African-American workers were crushed to death by a faulty truck in Memphis. The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFSCME, union members went on strike, and Dr. King was right there with them lending his support.

In a speech to the sanitation workers on strike, Dr. King explained why he was there. He said: "Now, our struggle is for genuine equality, which means economic equality." Dr. King said that to thousands gathered at Mason Temple. He said: "For we know that isn't enough to integrate lunch counters. What does it profit a man to be able to eat at an integrated lunch counter if he doesn't earn enough money to buy a hamburger . . . ?"

Dr. King had come to signal the dawn of a new era in the struggle. He was there to stand with workers who were sick and tired of low wages, unsafe working conditions, and the city's refusal to recognize their union. He was there because he believed that labor rights, civil rights, and human rights are one and the same. He was there because he understood the simple truth that there can be no racial justice without economic justice.

Tragically, while fighting to secure the American Dream for all Americans, Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968. Now, that was a day that changed my life. Congresswoman JACKSON LEE mentioned where she was. We all remember that moment. I was living in San Jose, California, and was commuting to San Francisco, about an hour away by train. I returned that evening. My car was parked in the train's parking lot. I got off the train, turned on the radio, and the news came through that Dr. King had been killed.

Well, I sat in my car for I don't know how long, and I cried. I was shocked like everyone, saddened, and angry. But I was also motivated to fight for the dream that Dr. King envisioned. My job, I quit my job. At that moment, I knew that I had to do something. So I became involved as a community worker with Bobby Seale and the Black Panther Party. But it was Dr. King's assassination that catapulted me into the movement.

I was determined to prove that even though the assassin killed the dreamer, he could not kill the dream. Right now in this country, the work that Dr. King went to Memphis to achieve, that work remains unfinished, which is what we intend to complete. Forty-seven million Americans remain locked in poverty. Discrimination and institutional racism continue to hold livable wages hostage, and the economic wealth divide, it grows deeper every day in urban and in rural communities.

Now, I represent the 13th Congressional District of California, a great district where there is an explosion of wealth in the bay area, which has recently experienced also a spike in median household income.

□ 2000

It is a hub of innovation and creativity, yet, in many ways, it is a tale of two cities. Black households in my district have been locked out of this explosion of wealth. According to the Census Bureau, the median income in the bay area jumped by 9 percent while the median income for Black households inched up just 2 percent.

It is not just wealth inequality. Twenty-three percent of Black households are poor, and 43 percent of Black children in my district are considered poor in Oakland. These numbers have remained stagnant year after year after year. This is unacceptable.

It is not just my district that experiences this wealth divide. Recent studies show that if trends persist, median Black household wealth could hit zero by 2053.

This alarming possibility makes one thing clear: the work to achieve Dr. King's dream must continue, and members of the Congressional Black Caucus tirelessly continue to work both inside this Congress and in our communities because there is still much that we must overcome.

As the conscience of the Congress, the Congressional Black Caucus fights every day to dismantle barriers that prevent low-income people, poor people, and people of color from having a fair shot at the American Dream. Dr. King's legacy can be found in our efforts to give communities of color, struggling families, and women a fair shot at improving their basic living standards.

There are many bills: Congressman BOBBY SCOTT's bill to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, and Congresswoman ALMA ADAMS' Closing the Meal Gap Act. There are many bills that many members of the Congressional Black Caucus really are championing every single day to ensure that Dr. King's life will be remembered, that his death will not overshadow his life, and that his legacy of fighting, as Dr. King said, to make the promises of democracy real will live on for generations to come.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL). I just had the pleasure of

really meeting her this year. She has a lot of energy and a lot of drive. She got me to go to Alabama, and I had never been to Alabama before. But after her personality, her drive, and her intellectual curiosity, and between her and JOHN LEWIS, what could I say?

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman EVANS for yielding. He has so ably represented and led the Second District of Pennsylvania. It has been an honor to call the gentleman my colleague.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that today I join with my CBC colleagues in honoring the extraordinary life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 50 years after his tragic death. Today we honor and celebrate the man who led our country in the fight against racism and injustice, a man who forged tools of nonviolence and compassion so that our Nation could break the chains of segregation and Jim Crow. Today we honor a man who refused to believe that racism and war would define our future, and who fought to ensure that truth and love would be the final word.

As the United States Representative of Alabama's historic civil rights district, I know that Dr. King's selfless sacrifices changed the trajectory of our Nation's history and changed the lives of so many families in my district and around the world.

When Birmingham was one of the most segregated cities in America, it was Dr. King who brought the civil rights movement home to Alabama during the Birmingham campaign. When four little Black girls were killed in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, it was Dr. King who delivered their eulogy and who refused to let their deaths go unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, when the police beat marchers on a bridge in my hometown in Alabama who were simply marching for the equal right to vote, it was Dr. King who helped Dr. Reese and so many others to organize that march from Selma to Montgomery.

It was foot soldiers like the honorable JOHN LEWIS, whom I am honored every day to be able to call colleague, who sacrificed their lives for the opportunity of a next generation to have the dream that so many wanted and fought for.

There are constituents in my district, the civil rights and voting rights foot soldiers, who marched with Dr. King, who answered the call to fight for justice. These foot soldiers faced fire hoses, police dogs, and nightsticks so that future generations of Americans could now have the equal right to vote.

Mr. Speaker, I get to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge just to go home to see my folks and to visit my family in Selma, Alabama, to go to my hometown to visit my friends who live in a place that still needs help.

There is still some unfinished business of civil rights and voting rights. It is my great honor to invite year after

year so many to come—thousands—walk in the footsteps of JOHN LEWIS with JOHN LEWIS. It doesn't get any better than that.

For me to be able to see that I am the Member from Alabama, I know that I stand on the shoulders of JOHN LEWIS and so many others. But I also know that I must get off his shoulders and that I must do the hard work and the unfinished business that is civil rights and voting rights in America. As long as there is voter suppression and people are not allowed to vote in this country, we have work to do. We have lots of work to do.

We must do our own work. It is not enough to just say thank you. It is not enough that we come before every year to reenact the march from Selma to Montgomery. It is not just about reenactment. It is about what we do day in and day out to further the dream that is Dr. King's to build that beloved community that we talked about.

I get to see up close JOHN LEWIS and know that he is not just talking the talk. He walks the walk every day. There are times when I am purely frustrated in this House, frustrated because there is so much work that we need to do and so much work that we don't do because of our dysfunction. When I get tired, I just look over at JOHN LEWIS, and I think to myself: this man never was tired.

The hard work was done by so many before us, and those of us who get to walk these Halls of Congress have to decide what we are going to do to help further that dream. Dr. King's life was not in vain. JOHN LEWIS' work is not in vain.

There are so many of us who know that we stand on the gentleman's shoulders and know that, in order for this country to live up to its ideals of justice and democracy for all, we must—every generation must—continue that fight.

It was Dr. King who wrote a letter from a Birmingham jail that talked about injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. And there are injustices everywhere. So we have work to do. We, the members of the CBC, take that challenge very seriously. But we Members of Congress of this House, this august body, must take that work seriously, too. That work is not work that is Republican work versus Democratic work. It is America's work. It is the work of our democracy.

It is the work that we must do that our constituents sent us here to do that so often is stifled by our rhetoric, stifled by our inability to see beyond our party, and stifled by so many things. But I know for a fact that when we work hand in hand together, Republicans and Democrats, Blacks and Whites, those from different religions, that we can do amazing things. We know that because of the life and legacy of Dr. King.

So on this 50th anniversary of his death, let us not mourn. Let us recommit. Let us recommit ourselves to that

which he stood for, for that which JOHN LEWIS stands for, and that is justice for all, irrespective of what country they come from.

We are tried and tested every day, and it is important that we remember that we can all walk across that Edmund Pettus Bridge by doing the hard work of seeking justice and equality for all people just because they are people.

I honor again the great work of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has approximately 13 minutes remaining.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE). Congressman DONALD PAYNE is a neighbor across the Walt Whitman Bridge or the Ben Franklin Bridge. I have known him and his father, and he has done a great job in the Garden State.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank Congressman EVANS for hosting tonight's Special Order hour on Dr. King's life and legacy. The gentleman from Philadelphia has come to this body and has made an impact in his first year on the floor of Congress. We are delighted to have had him join the CBC.

Mr. Speaker, as I sat here and listened to my colleagues, the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, CEDRIC RICHMOND, not the eldest member of the caucus, but a young man who has demonstrated the leadership to be the head of this august body; and to hear my colleague—and I use the term in reverence—JOHN LEWIS, I am fortunate to be able to serve the 10th Congressional District of the State of New Jersey at this time. Because, you see, I was sitting here as I listened to BARBARA LEE, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, JOHN LEWIS, TERRI SEWELL, and Mr. EVANS, that to whom much is given, much is expected.

I hear the story of the "Boy From Troy." I hear the story of my chairman, CEDRIC RICHMOND. But I have been fortunate in my life because, you see, I had a father who felt that the most important thing to do was to serve this country and this world. He instilled that in me. A lot of his teachings come from Dr. Martin Luther King.

Fifty years after his death, Dr. King's legacy has been shrouded in myth by people who prefer being comfortable to being real. Mr. Speaker, at this time, as young people back in my district say, I am going to keep it real. His personal truths have been twisted into lies by people who want to appear woke but whose eyes are blind to the harsh reality of injustice.

This year, in 2018, we must reclaim Dr. King's legacy for those who are apt to quote "I Have a Dream" as they seek to silence people of color for fighting to preserve that dream.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. King understood that nonviolence does not mean

nonconfrontational. He knew that social change requires sacrifice. He knew that doing what is right does not mean doing what is always easy.

When Black Lives Matter protesters peacefully rally in the streets to protest police brutality against young men of color, conservatives and White moderates shout that Black Lives Matter incites violence and should be peaceful like Dr. King.

What they are really saying is: Sit down, boy, and know your place.

That is the same thing they said 55 years ago, when Dr. King led peaceful protests against racial injustice in Birmingham, Alabama. Conservatives shouted that Dr. King was causing hatred and violence. They told him to sit down and to know his place, but he persisted. Dr. King was not in Birmingham to make everyone comfortable. He was there to upset the status quo and to change our democracy.

Then, 4 years later, Dr. King proclaimed that the Vietnam war was morally unjust. He pointed out that profit had become more important to the government than people who were sacrificing their lives overseas. Conservatives, once again, attacked Dr. King. They said he was being slanderous and that he was tragically misleading people.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you see the great outcry and support that we have for our soldiers and our military people now in this country. We honor and revere them now. That came out of the struggle of the Vietnam war, where they were spat on and told that they weren't worth anything. That is where it came from, Dr. King bringing up the unjust war that this was. So out of Dr. King's protests against the Vietnam war, we began a great reverence for our soldiers once again.

That is what we see now in the streets when we see a Vietnam vet and we tell them: Thank you for your service.

Or whether they were in Afghanistan: Thank you for your service.

□ 2015

It was Dr. King who first raised that issue. They told him to be quiet and to know his place. But like Dr. King told one of his friends at the time, he might have been politically unwise, but he was being morally wise, and that is what mattered. This year, in 2018, we must be morally wise.

Dr. King's life and legacy show us that doing right is rarely the same thing as doing what is easy. We, too, must persist.

As we head into a consequential year when Americans will go to the polls, let us not lose sight of the fact that to protect and preserve Dr. King's legacy demands that we protect and preserve our democracy from voter suppression, cybersecurity weakness, and foreign meddling.

We must expand voting rights for all Americans.

We must modernize our voting systems.

We must appoint an independent commission to investigate foreign meddling into the electoral system before the 2018 Federal election.

We must break down barriers to voting, not build them.

We must make registering to vote easier, not harder.

We must ensure elections are competitive, not guaranteed.

We must restore the right to vote, for felons who have served their prison sentences.

We must end partisan gerrymandering.

We must protect the sanctity of our elections.

We must restore the Voting Rights Act. Dr. King knew that it was important.

As I go to my seat, I just want to thank my colleagues for their endurance. As "Amazing Grace" says: "I once was lost, but now am found." Serving with these great people in the United States Congress has saved a wretch like me.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, we had the gentleman from the East. Now we will go to the West, to someone whom I have watched. She is an educator and is always teaching.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY), who is from the Third Congressional District.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Congressman DWIGHT EVANS, who hails from the Second District of Pennsylvania. I thank him for leading us tonight. I also thank Congressional Black Caucus Chairman CEDRIC RICHMOND for allowing us to come tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in coming to the floor tonight to mark the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King. We have made progress in these past 50 years, but the legacy and example of Dr. King show us that much remains to be done.

Although many marches and protests were met with violence, we had Dr. King and the women and men who stood with him, like our very own colleague and Congressional Black Caucus member, Congressman JOHN LEWIS.

As I listened to Congressman LEWIS tonight—as I sit on this House floor and have the privilege and honor to call him a colleague and a friend—it reminded me of his courage and how much more work we have to do.

It was through these peaceful protests, it was through their courage, it was through the power of the messages that they sent that they stood up against the establishment.

Dr. King was able to bring the injustices felt by African Americans nationwide to the forefront of American politics. His work culminated in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, where hundreds of thousands of individuals of all stripes and communities came for a call to justice and equality for all.

It was on that day, August 28, 1963, when Dr. King gave one of his most powerful and famous speeches, that passionate speech, "I Have a Dream," calling for the end of racism and the expansion of civil rights and economic rights.

I am so proud that Mother Beatty's mother, my husband's grandmother, was an invited platform guest to witness that speech. We have that picture in our office to remind us and to remind our children and grandchildren of the power of Dr. Martin Luther King and Congressman JOHN LEWIS.

With the emotions and the will of the march that it encapsulated in such powerful words, civil rights rose to the top of the agenda of reformers and facilitated the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Still, Mr. Speaker, Dr. King's work was not done.

The next year, Dr. King helped to lead the Selma to Montgomery march. How proud I am that I was able to participate in the reenactment of that on its 50th anniversary. The march route spanned some 54 miles, from Selma, Alabama, to the State capital in Montgomery.

The marchers were in response to the Southern States' legislatures passing and maintaining discriminatory laws and practices over decades where it meant to deny, Mr. Speaker, African Americans across the State, across the South, the right to vote.

What is our message? What is our message tonight?

We are here because we are still walking in it. We are still fighting for civil rights and voting rights and economic rights. We are still fighting for equal pay for equal work.

But we are not afraid. Mr. LEWIS led us on this House floor in fighting for gun safety. We are not afraid because we are continuing the legacy of Martin Luther King.

Lastly, let me just say that we must break this cycle of economic inequality, racism, and poverty. We must stand up to the GOP and to President Trump, because when we look at this tax reform bill, it brings those injustices to economics and equality, a financial gain.

So we are here tonight to say there is still a dream. There is still a stone of hope.

Again, I thank my colleague for leading us in this celebration and this tribute to Martin Luther King.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I, too, thank my colleague for those eloquent words and those comments which were very succinct and provided a lot for us.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus for allowing me to have this opportunity to speak, and I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CARTER of Georgia (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and January 9.

Ms. CLARKE of New York (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of travel difficulties.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, January 9, 2018, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3579. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — TRICARE; Reimbursement of Long Term Care Hospitals and Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities [Docket ID: DOD-2012-HA-0146] (RIN: 0720-AB47) received January 4, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3580. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Shortraker Rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 160920866-7167-02] (RIN: 0648-XF761) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3581. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for a drawdown under section 506(a)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, for Iraq assistance; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3582. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-214, "Closing of a Public Alley in Square 772, S.O. 16-25615, Act of 2017", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3583. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-215, "Closing of Public Alley in Square 3594, S.O. 16-25309, Act of 2017", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3584. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-216, "Ward 4 Full-Service Grocery Store Amendment Act of 2017", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3585. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-217, "Lincoln Court Designation Act of 2017", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3586. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting

D.C. Act 22-218, "Union Market Tax Increment Financing Act of 2017", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3587. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 22-219, "Office on African American Affairs Establishment Act of 2017", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3588. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 22-220, "Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Signature Authority Amendment Act of 2017", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3589. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 22-222, "Public School Health Services Amendment Act of 2017", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3590. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 22-223, "D.C. Healthcare Alliance Re-Enrollment Reform Amendment Act of 2017", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3591. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 22-224, "Department of Health Care Finance Independent Procurement Authority Temporary Amendment Act of 2017", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3592. A letter from the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, transmitting a list of reports created by the Clerk, pursuant to Rule II, Clause 2(b), of the Rules of the House (H. Doc. No. 115—81); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

3593. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2017 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack [Docket No.: 1206013412-2517-02] (RIN: 0648-XF493) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3594. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2017 Accountability Measure-Based Closures for Commercial and Recreational Species in the U.S. Caribbean off Puerto Rico [Docket No.: 170126124-7124-01] (RIN: 0648-XF488) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3595. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2017 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Snowy Grouper [Docket No.: 0907271173-0629-03] (RIN: 0648-XF492) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3596. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; 2017-2018 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for King Mackerel in the Gulf of Mexico Western Zone [Docket No.: 160426363-7275-02] (RIN: 0648-XF735) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3597. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; Re-Opening of the Commercial Sector for Bluefin Tilefish [Docket No.: 140501394-5279-02] (RIN: 0648-XF758) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3598. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; 2017 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Yellowtail Snapper [Docket No.: 100812345-2142-03] (RIN: 0648-XF465) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3599. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2017 Commercial Accountability Measures and Closure for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia [Docket No.: 101206604-1758-02] (RIN: 0648-XF652) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3600. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's modification of fishing seasons — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modifications of the West Coast Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions #12 Through #18 [Docket No.: 161222999-7413-01] (RIN: 0648-XF715) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3601. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Commercial Aggregated Large Coastal Shark and Hammerhead Shark Management Group Retention Limit Adjustment [Docket No.: 150413357-5999-02] (RIN: 0648-XF501) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3602. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries [Docket No.: 150121066-5717-02] (RIN: 0648-XF634) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110

Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3603. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands [Docket No.: 161020985-7181-02] (RIN: 0648-XF509) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3604. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; "Other Flatfish" in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 161020985-7181-02] (RIN: 0648-XF580) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3605. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Alaska Plaice in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 161020985-7181-02] (RIN: 0648-XF579) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3606. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Bering Sea Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 161020985-7181-02] (RIN: 0648-XF714) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3607. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 161020985-7181-02] (RIN: 0648-XF654) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3608. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea Subarea [Docket No.: 161020985-7181-02] (RIN: 0648-XF614) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3609. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Sablefish in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 160920866-7167-02] (RIN: 0648-XF756) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3610. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,

NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; American Plaice Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area Closure for the Common Pool Fishery [Docket No.: 151211999-6343-02] (RIN: 0648-XF467) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3611. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery; Closure of the Elephant Trunk Flex Access Area to General Category Individual Fishing Quota Scallop Vessels [Docket No.: 161118999-7280-02] (RIN: 0648-XF409) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3612. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Yellowfin Sole for Vessels Participating in the BSAI Trawl Limited Access Fishery in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 161020985-7181-02] (RIN: 0648-XF468) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3613. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Georges Bank Cod Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area Closure for the Common Pool Fishery [Docket No.: 151211999-6343-02] (RIN: 0648-XF586) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3614. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a draft of a bill to authorize a major medical facility project for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 8104(a)(2); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2954. A bill to amend the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975 to specify which depository institutions are subject to the maintenance of records and disclosure requirements of such Act, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-485). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WALDEN: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 772. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to improve and clarify certain disclosure requirements for restaurants and similar retail food establishments, and to amend the authority to bring proceedings under section 403A; with an amendment (Rept. 115-86). Referred to the

Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 424. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to reissue final rules relating to listing of the gray wolf in the Western Great Lakes and Wyoming under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-487). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

[Submitted January 3, 2018]

By Mr. BANKS of Indiana (for himself, Mr. MESSER, and Mr. ROKITA):

H. Res. 675. A resolution condemning the Government of Iran for its violence against demonstrators and calling for peaceful resolution to the concerns of the citizens of Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

[Submitted January 5, 2018]

By Mr. ROYCE of California (for himself and Mr. ENGEL):

H. Res. 676. A resolution supporting the rights of the people of Iran to free expression, condemning the Iranian regime for its crackdown on legitimate protests, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

[Submitted January 8, 2018]

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN):

H.R. 4737. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the air transportation security programs established by airport operators to contain certain elements; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. EMMER:

H.R. 4738. A bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to provide complaint and burden of proof requirements for certain actions for breach of fiduciary duty; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HASTINGS:

H.R. 4739. A bill to provide dedicated funding for the national infrastructure investment program and the capital investment grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 Mrs. LOWEY (for herself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 4740. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the limitation on the deduction for certain taxes, including state and local property and income taxes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ZELDIN:

H.R. 4741. A bill to require the Postmaster General to designate a single, unique ZIP code for particular communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MCCARTHY:

H. Res. 677. A resolution providing for a committee to notify the President of the as-

sembly of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCARTHY:

H. Res. 678. A resolution to inform the Senate that a quorum of the House has assembled; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCARTHY:

H. Res. 679. A resolution providing for the hour of meeting of the House; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. DUNN, Mr. ROSS, Mr. MAST, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. SOTO, Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. POSEY, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida, and Mr. DESANTIS):

H. Res. 680. A resolution celebrating the 40th anniversary of Keiser University and recognizing the university as a vital institution of higher education, developing a diverse student population that impacts numerous aspects of the State of Florida and the global economy; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

159. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Texas, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 31, urging the United States Congress to encourage the U.S. Department of Agriculture to revise existing policies that promote the waste of water after an irrigated crop has been declared a failure; to the Committee on Agriculture.

160. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, relative to a resolution memorializing the Department of Homeland Security to continue the Temporary Protected Status Program; 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.

[Submitted January 8, 2018]

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 4737.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. EMMER:

H.R. 4738.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. HASTINGS:

H.R. 4739.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 4740.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution: Congress shall have the power to, "regulate Commerce with foreign

Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. ZELDIN:

H.R. 4741.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, 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:

[Submitted January 3, 2018]

H.R. 1899: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 4143: Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 4453: Mr. REICHERT.
H.R. 4541: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 4610: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 4734: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire and Mr. BACON.
H. Res. 349: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.

[Submitted January 5, 2018]

H.R. 184: Mrs. HANDEL.
H.R. 669: Ms. TSONGAS and Mr. WALZ.
H.R. 807: Mr. DONOVAN.
H.R. 850: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. BACON, and Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 1010: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 1046: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 1156: Mr. PERRY.
H.R. 1163: Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 1241: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 1276: Ms. TSONGAS and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 1651: Mr. GOODLATTE and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 1841: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 1953: Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 1972: Mr. REED.
H.R. 2004: Mr. COFFMAN.
H.R. 2180: Mr. GALLEGRO.
H.R. 2276: Mr. SMUCKER.
H.R. 2587: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 2683: Mr. POLIQUIN.
H.R. 2862: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H.R. 3409: Mr. COLLINS of New York and Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 3489: Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 3566: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 3730: Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. COFFMAN.
H.R. 3980: Ms. HANABUSA.
H.R. 4014: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 4052: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 4058: Mr. GRIFFITH.
H.R. 4155: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 4392: Mr. ABRAHAM and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 4396: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 4461: Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 4547: Mrs. WALORSKI and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 4712: Mr. MESSER.
H. Con. Res. 63: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H. Res. 493: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H. Res. 653: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H. Res. 661: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. PERRY.

H. Res. 671: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. DONOVAN, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. MCKINLEY.
H. Res. 675: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. WALKER, Mr. MEADOWS, and Ms. STEFANIK.

[Submitted January 8, 2018]

H.R. 173: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 389: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 421: Mr. CURTIS.
H.R. 506: Mr. FASO, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. SOTO, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 535: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MESSER, Mr. COOK, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. FERGUSON.

H.R. 548: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

H.R. 757: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 761: Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 807: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 850: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania and Mr. MARSHALL.

H.R. 975: Mr. SOTO, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. O'ROURKE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 991: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 997: Mr. LONG and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 1065: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 1153: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 1227: Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. LEE, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 1316: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 1406: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 1486: Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. FASO.

H.R. 1676: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 1823: Mr. GALLEGRO.

H.R. 1841: Mr. RYAN of Ohio and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1861: Ms. HANABUSA.

H.R. 1957: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 2004: Mrs. WAGNER.

H.R. 2404: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 2405: Mr. SMUCKER.

H.R. 2542: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2604: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 2620: Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 2740: Mr. HIMES and Mr. ISSA.

H.R. 2832: Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. GARRETT, and Mr. Smith of Missouri.

H.R. 3045: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 3274: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 3320: Mr. MESSER, Mr. COOK, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia and Mr. CURTIS.

H.R. 3349: Mr. RICHMOND and Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 3666: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 3730: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 3733: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 3887: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 4006: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 4022: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 4099: Mr. BUCK and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 4101: Mr. SMUCKER.

H.R. 4124: Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. JONES, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. Jordan, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. PERRY, Mr. LABRADOR, and Mr. DAVIDSON.

H.R. 4143: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 4207: Mrs. WAGNER.

H.R. 4240: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. NEAL, and Mr. HIGGINS of New York.

H.R. 4253: Mr. BEYER, Ms. TITUS, Mr. MOULTON, and Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 4433: Mr. FASO.

H.R. 4505: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 4509: Mr. CARTER of Georgia and Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 4516: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 4518: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 4547: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. DEFASO, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. REICHERT, and Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 4608: Mr. PALLONE, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 4610: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 4651: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia and Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 4706: Mr. YOHO and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 4712: Mr. BYRNE and Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 4734: Mrs. COMSTOCK and Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 4736: Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. CRAMER, and Mrs. NOEM.

H.J. Res. 1: Mr. POLIQUIN.

H.J. Res. 2: Mr. POLIQUIN.

H. Res. 46: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H. Res. 58: Mr. COHEN.

H. Res. 271: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H. Res. 274: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H. Res. 312: Mr. DELANEY.

H. Res. 393: Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H. Res. 448: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H. Res. 661: Mr. DEFASO.

H. Res. 675: Mr. COFFMAN.

H. Res. 676: Mr. CORREA, Mr. SRES, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. MENG, Mr. BERA, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LATTA, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. VELA, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. COOK, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. LANCE, Mr. TURNER, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, and Mr. SCALISE.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

74. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Council of the District of Columbia, relative to Council Resolution 22-299, to approve, on an emergency basis, the transfer of jurisdiction of U.S. Reservation 724 (Lots 896 and 897 in Square 620) from the United States of America, acting by and through the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, to the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

75. Also, a petition of Mr. Gregory Watson, a citizen of Austin, TX, relative to Urging Congress to enact legislation that would end the Diversity Immigrant Visa Lottery program and the Chain Migration program for immigration to the United States and to replace those programs with a merit-based program for persons seeking to immigrate to the United States, with a burden to demonstrate how that individual's potential immigration to the United States would benefit the United States.; to the Committee on the Judiciary.



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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BILL CASSIDY, a Senator from the State of Louisiana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, abide with us. When other helpers fail and comfort flees, strengthen our Senators with Your might. Provide them with a perseverance that completes the task, a courage to face every fear, and a fidelity that brings glory to Your Name. Help them to live such exemplary lives that they will infect others with the contagion of love for You and country. Lord, give them the gentleness and symmetry to bring healing to our Nation and world. Whatever they do, may they do it for You, the Author and Finisher of our destinies.

We pray in Your strong 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:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 8, 2018.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BILL CASSIDY, a Sen-

ator from the State of Louisiana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CASSIDY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

TAX REFORM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 1 million Americans and counting will be starting 2018 with more money in their pockets, thanks to tax reform.

Special bonuses are on the way for employees across a wide range of industries. Businesses throughout America are taking advantage of more competitive tax rates and passing the savings along to their workers. As a result, employees at companies from Visa and AT&T to Turning Point Brands in Louisville, KY, are seeing results. For working parents in Kentucky and all across the Nation, these bonuses and other permanent changes will make a big difference in family budgets.

Of course, in just weeks, families will see the benefits of tax reform hit their paychecks. Lower tax rates will mean less money withheld for the IRS and more take-home pay for more hard-working Americans.

I am particularly proud of the way this tax reform will benefit America's farmers and ranchers. Later today, President Trump is delivering the good news at the annual conference of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Like so many States, Kentucky is home to a vibrant farming community. Throughout the legislative process, I heard family farmers loud and clear. They said: We need tax relief. That is what Congress delivered.

Thanks to our once-in-a-generation tax reform law, it will be easier for

farm families around Kentucky and around the country to invest in new capital equipment and recover their costs. According to the Farm Bureau Federation, 93 percent of U.S. farms file taxes through the individual code. They will benefit from the major tax relief we secured for passthrough businesses.

Especially important for farmers, this tax bill doubled the exemption from the death tax. It is the government's final insult to make grieving families visit both the undertaker and the IRS at the same time. Now this burden will fall on fewer American farmers and ranchers.

Thanks to the work of Senator ROBERTS, Senator HATCH, and many others, we passed a tax reform bill that both the American Farm Bureau Federation and the Kentucky Farm Bureau enthusiastically endorse, and now farming families throughout America will reap the benefits.

NOMINATION OF WILLIAM L. CAMPBELL, JR.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter, later today the Senate will vote to advance the nomination of William L. Campbell, Jr., to serve as a U.S. district judge for the Middle District of Tennessee.

Mr. Campbell's nomination is not controversial. Like the other three district court nominees before the Senate this week, he is well qualified. They are the kinds of nominees who, until recently, would have sailed quickly and smoothly right through the Senate.

So why will their four nominations consume a week of the Senate's attention? Why do we need to file cloture on each, and then exhaust the full 30 hours of debate? The reason is that Senate Democrats are choosing, for partisan reasons, to make these nominations take as long as possible. Their goal is to waste the Senate's time and prevent the President from promptly filling judicial vacancies.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Mr. President, 2017 was a historic year of partisan obstruction by our Democratic colleagues, even for uncontroversial judges who went on to unanimous or near-unanimous confirmation votes. Our colleagues across the aisle used every possible procedural roadblock to delay and drag their heels.

Now 2018 is, unfortunately, starting off the same way.

Mr. Campbell is a Marine Corps veteran and a well-respected lawyer. His record is not partisan. His nomination was reported out of the Judiciary Committee on a voice vote. I look forward to the Senate confirming him, albeit after our Democratic colleagues waste more of the Senate's time.

I implore our Democratic friends to turn the page on the needless obstruction and permit the Senate to function smoothly so that we can attend to more of the people's business.

FUNDING THE GOVERNMENT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on a final matter, in the next 11 days Congress needs to reach an agreement to fund the government.

It is imperative that this agreement provide adequate resources for our men and women in uniform. Last week, leadership on both sides of the aisle expressed hopes of working seriously and collaboratively on a solution that enables our Armed Forces to advance critical missions at home and abroad.

At the same time, our Democratic colleagues persist in the notion that we should increase defense spending only if we increase nondefense spending by the same amount. As we lay the facts on the table, this political talking point simply doesn't hold up.

By now, we all know that the Budget Control Act hit defense spending much harder than it hit domestic spending. Since fiscal year 2013, to be precise, discretionary defense spending has been cut by \$85 billion more than discretionary nondefense spending. This might sound like an abstract distinction, but it has very real, tangible consequences for our national security. These disproportionate cuts have reduced the readiness of American forces to meet and address emerging threats.

Our military leaders have explained this over and over and over again. Just months ago, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Dunford, told our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee that over the last decade, "The U.S. military's competitive advantage against potential adversaries is eroding." He cited budgetary instability as a key reason.

At the same hearing, Secretary of Defense Mattis added: "No enemy in the field has done more to harm the readiness of our military than sequestration."

"No enemy," Secretary Mattis said, "in the field has done more to harm the readiness of our military than sequestration."

The men and women we trust to lead our military have made it abundantly clear that the status quo in defense funding, let alone the further instability that would result from our failure to reach an agreement, is handicapping our servicemembers.

In the next week and a half, let's put aside partisan rhetoric and start heeding the warnings of our nonpartisan military leaders. Let's give those who keep us safe the resources they need to do the job.

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of William L. Campbell, Jr., of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee.

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I come to the floor this afternoon to mark a milestone no Senator can be proud of and a milestone every Senator should regret. That milestone is, it has now been 100 days since the Congress failed to extend full funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program. The Congress has always looked at this in a bipartisan way. This is for the millions of families, for kids who walk an economic tightrope with their families, the families who balance the rent bill against the fuel bill and the fuel bill against the grocery bill.

I have to say, there was plenty of time in the last Congress to carry out the priorities of the multinational corporations. The people who are well connected, the people who are powerful received permanent, substantial, really massive new tax breaks, and yet the 9

million kids, including 80,000 in my home State who count on CHIP to stay healthy—what they received was a patch. They received something temporary. They received something that didn't resemble the permanent, you-can-count-on-it tax relief the multinational corporations were celebrating at the end of the year. It is a sad statement about the priorities of the Congress at the end of last year and one I hope we will move now in the bipartisan tradition of this program to pass on a permanent basis.

The CHIP program was created in 1997 through a simple idea: No child, regardless of their income, family's status, or geography should go without quality, affordable healthcare. It serves families who make too much to qualify for Medicaid but also don't have access to affordable healthcare through their employer. A lot of these families go back and forth between CHIP and Medicaid, depending on whether a spouse is out of work.

CHIP covers all kinds of essential healthcare for kids from preventive services to dental checkups, to treatment for serious illnesses. For families across the country, that is peace of mind, that is the chance to go to bed at night knowing you aren't going to get crushed by big medical bills in the morning. It means you don't have to have those heartbreaking, right-before-bed conversations about what you are going to do for your sick child, and it doesn't mean you have to just plan on the unexpected emergencies with nowhere to turn. All of that is at risk because of the "negligence" of this Congress, and I use that word specifically.

I talked about the skewed priorities at the end of the year, but right now States are stretching their Children's Health Insurance Program dollars to the breaking point. They are trying to make sure kids stay covered, and what we are faced with is termination notices going out. We have to prevent those termination notices for these families. As I said, Congress put a patch on all this, contrasting this to the permanent relief of the multinationals, and the Congress sent a small amount of money to the States to keep them afloat, but make no mistake about it, it is not going to be long before bedlam sets in, once again, and there are real consequences for children and families.

Now, I also want to note that I have been working closely with Chairman HATCH for months now to get CHIP across the finish line. Chairman HATCH knows what it takes. He created this program with our friend Senator Rockefeller and the late, great Senator Kennedy. They demonstrated that kids' health was an issue that transcends ideological lines, and our country is the better for it today.

Chairman HATCH and I made an agreement in September that extends full funding for 5 years, affirms key protections for kids and their families, and gives States certainty they can

count on to plan their budgets. I note that the leader, Senator SCHUMER, is here. He has been very supportive of this bill. He sat next to me and Senator Rockefeller for years and is supportive of the children's health program.

The Hatch-Wyden bill passed with a strong bipartisan vote in the Finance Committee. Again, I am highlighting the priorities where there was time for the multinational corporations to get that permanent relief, but there wasn't any time to put the CHIP bill—one that had only one vote in opposition in the Finance Committee—on the Senate floor. In the House of Representatives, they weren't pursuing it like we did in the Finance Committee. They never could get past a purely partisan approach, out of line with CHIP's long, bipartisan history.

Now, obviously after months of delay, it is time to act, and I want to wrap up with a quick comment about what is going to happen if you don't move and move quickly. Just last week, the Congressional Budget Office announced that the cost of CHIP has plummeted from \$3.2 billion to \$800 million. That is because premiums in the individual market are set to skyrocket after the repeal of the Affordable Care Act's coverage requirement in the Republican tax bill. Many of the families who currently count on CHIP will have to get their kids' healthcare on the private market at a higher cost. As if Congress needed more reasons to act, the budget office has demonstrated what is now at stake for kids and their families who are counting on quick action for affordable healthcare.

There is a long history, as I have noted, of the Senate working on the Children's Health Insurance Program in a bipartisan way. We started building on that tradition in the Finance Committee with virtual unanimity. Somehow at the end of the last Congress—and your priorities can always be illustrated with what you find time to do—there was time at the end of the year for the agenda of the multinational corporations, but there wasn't time for the youngsters and their families who walk an economic tightrope and depend every night, when they turn the lights out, on making sure there is a way to pay for healthcare if there is an emergency in the morning.

I want it understood that we are working day in and day out now to quickly make sure kids and their families get the certainty and predictability they deserve. They deserve the kind of certainty the powerful got with the tax bill at the end of the year.

So we are going to be on this floor until this critical legislation is passed. It needs to be passed quickly.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

FUNDING THE GOVERNMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, my dear friend and I got to Congress in

1980, and I thank him very much for his leadership on the CHIP issue, as on so many other issues that pass through the Finance Committee, where he has done a terrific job. His caring for kids is unmatched, and he is a great asset to his State of Oregon, to this body, and to our country.

We have 2 weeks until funding for the government runs out. Alongside our talks about extending government funding, we have also been engaged in serious bipartisan negotiations on a number of issues that should coincide with that deadline. We have to lift spending cuts, pass disaster aid, a healthcare package, reach an agreement to enshrine DACA protections alongside additional border security, and of course there is the issue of 702 as well.

Those negotiations, though difficult, have been proceeding quite well. In fact, the four congressional leaders met with representatives from the White House last Thursday and had an encouraging meeting. Unfortunately, following that meeting, the White House issued a series of unreasonable demands entirely outside the scope of our ongoing negotiations about DACA and border security. It is part of a pattern of behavior on the part of this White House during sensitive bipartisan negotiations.

Over the past year, the White House has much more frequently been a disruptive force rather than a unifying force. To throw down a list from the hard-line wing of the White House at the last minute is not a very fortuitous or smart thing to do.

I hope we can keep on the track that we were on because the issues we are facing are mounting, and a major deal requires dedicated, bipartisan effort. Democrats are going to keep working toward a global agreement with our Republican colleagues, one that lifts the spending caps for defense and urgent domestic priorities in tandem, that sends our men and women in uniform the support they need, and that puts a downpayment on tackling the pressing issues here at home, such as combating the opioid epidemic, improving veterans' healthcare, and shoring up pension plans. These are every bit as important as helping our troops.

Our troops are extremely important, but we are a great country, and we don't have to say: To help the troops, we can't help the victims of opioid addiction. To help the troops, we can't help the veterans who once were troops themselves. To help the troops, we can't help working Americans keep the pensions they paid into year after year. All these folks want is to retire to a life of some degree of dignity.

When the majority leader said this morning that he is not for parity, he is saying we can't do both. He is telling victims of opioid addiction, many of whom are soldiers who have PTSD, and he is telling pensioners—some miners in his own State—and he is telling veterans who have to wait in line for

healthcare that this country can't do both, that we can't protect our military, give them the funds they need, and deal with our domestic needs.

When Donald Trump ran, he said that we have to pay more attention to America. What the majority leader is saying is that is not the case. So let no one be fooled. When the majority leader says he is not for parity, he is not for helping opioid folks to the extent they need, he is not for helping veterans to the extent they need, and he is not for helping pensioners to the extent they need. We Democrats are there for both—helping the military and helping these folks here.

Over the weekend, I was in White Plains, which is a suburb of New York City. I stood with a mother who lost her son to an opioid overdose. A mother should never have to bury her son, especially Stephanie Keegan, whose son Daniel was a veteran who served our country bravely in Afghanistan. He did very well in school but had a duty to country. He was in the intelligence unit for a while, he was so brilliant. But he came home, as some do, nerves shattered by war, struggling with a severe case of PTSD. Stephanie told me that her beautiful, brilliant son Daniel—I saw his picture; an all-American boy, if ever there were one—her son Daniel waited 16 months for treatment by the VA and died 2 weeks before his first appointment.

"There are so many things that can be done to change this situation," Mrs. Keegan said. She is right. We can make a real investment in combating the scourge of opioid addiction, putting real resources into treatment and recovery, as well as interdiction. We can make a real investment in improving healthcare at our veterans hospitals so kids like Daniel don't have to wait almost a year and a half before they get the treatment they desperately need.

And what about hard-working Americans who need pensions? Retirement is one of the things Americans worry about most these days. For years, Teamsters and miners and carpenters paid into pension plans week after week, month after month, year after year. They took a little less salary in their negotiations because they wanted to know that when it was time to retire, they could retire with some degree of dignity. No one is going to get rich on these pensions, but at least they are there and provide a little bit of a nest egg for people in their golden years. As they put the money in week after week, month after month, year after year, they were told: You may not become rich when you retire, you may not be able to buy luxuries, but at least you will have a life of dignity.

Now those pensions may be stolen from millions in America, in this country. These folks contributed to and earned every penny of their pensions. Are we going to shrug our shoulders and say: We can't do that. Most Americans want us to do that; they don't want it to be an either-or situation.

Our colleagues would say: Well, that might increase the deficit. Don't come talking to us about the deficit anymore when you put together a \$1.5 trillion increase in the deficit, the majority of which went to big tax cuts for the wealthiest individuals and the biggest, fattest corporations in America. No more deficit talk from my colleagues here.

When we Democrats ask for parity in budget agreements, this is what we mean: We mean opioids. We mean veterans' healthcare. We mean pensions.

We need to defend and support the middle class here at home just as we must protect America from her adversaries abroad, which our military does so proudly and bravely. We agree that we need to support our military wholeheartedly, but we don't think that is a reason to leave the middle class behind. So let's do both. Let's lift the spending caps equally for defense and these urgent domestic priorities.

Our two parties can reach a deal like that, just as we can reach a deal to pass a disaster aid package that treats all States and territories fairly; just as we can have an agreement on a healthcare package that acknowledges the new realities of the healthcare markets, which were disrupted by Republicans when they repealed the mandate in the tax bill last year; and just as we can reach a deal on DACA—protecting young people who were brought here as kids through no fault of their own—while at the same time making reasonable, appropriate, and smart investments in border security—something that in the past both Democrats and Republicans have supported.

In conclusion, an agreement can be reached on all these issues. Nobody wants a shutdown. Nobody wants sequestration to come into effect for either the military or the domestic side of the budget. So let's continue to work together. Let's commit to work together in good faith to make progress on these issues and get it done before January 19.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Ohio.

NATIONAL SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING
PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. In a recent proclamation, President Trump continued what President Obama had begun in making this the ninth annual year where we designate our first month of the year to awareness and prevention of trafficking, awareness and prevention of this crime against humanity.

President Trump issued a call to action. The proclamation said, in part:

Human trafficking is a modern form of the oldest and most barbaric type of exploitation. It has no place in our world. This month, we do not simply reflect on this appalling reality. We also pledge to do all in our power to end the horrific practice of human trafficking that plagues innocent victims around the world.

Amen. I commend the President for his strong stance, and I commend the U.S. Senate for the work we have done over the past several years, in a bipartisan way, to help combat trafficking. We made some progress.

About 6 years ago, Senator BLUMENTHAL—who will speak about this topic later on the floor—and I co-founded the Senate Caucus to End Human Trafficking and legislation since that time to increase penalties on people buying sex from children; stop international trafficking by U.S. Government contractors overseas; find missing children more quickly—the most vulnerable among us—by ensuring that their photographs and other identifiers are available; improve data on trafficking to find out what the problem is, where it is going; and, of course, change the paradigm—treat children who are exploited as victims rather than, as they have been treated over the years, as criminals.

We have made some progress in these areas, but I have to tell you, despite these efforts and despite the increasing awareness of the fact that trafficking occurs right here in this country, in all of our States, we now know that one form, at least, of sex trafficking is actually increasing in our country. Think about that. It is increasing in this country, in this century. What experts say when you ask them about it is that is primarily because of one reason; that is, the fact that the internet is being used to sell sex.

By the way, doing it on the internet, it turns out, occurs with ruthless efficiency. Victims I have visited across Ohio tell me, including one this past Friday in Ohio: ROB, it has moved from the street corner to the iPhone, from the street corner to the cell phone, from the street corner to the internet.

There was discussion earlier from my colleague from New York about the role opioids play in causing harm in our society. Of course, the internet combined with opioids is deadly. The young woman I met with on Friday was one of those who had become addicted to opioids—in her case, fentanyl, which is an incredibly powerful, dangerous drug—and depended on her trafficker to be able to provide that. That is one form of dependency you see in sex trafficking. And again, online is where people are increasingly being bought and sold.

This increase in sex trafficking is a stain on our national character. It is only Congress that has the power to stop it.

There is one website— backpage.com—that is the leader in online sex trafficking. They have knowingly sold underage girls online. I say that because we have done an investigation, and we determined that. We now know from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children that backpage.com is involved in nearly 75 percent of all child trafficking reports the organization receives from the public.

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which I chair, along with then-ranking member CLAIRE McCASKILL and now-ranking member TOM CARPER, has conducted an extensive, 18-month investigation into online sex trafficking and specifically backpage.com. We found that backpage.com knowingly facilitated criminal sex trafficking of vulnerable women and young children. It coached the traffickers on how to edit adult classified ads to post so-called clean ads for illegal transactions, and then it covered up evidence of these crimes in order to increase its profits. All this was done at the cost of human suffering—and sometimes human life—with the sole purpose of increasing the company's profits.

In the fall, I testified on this issue in front of the Senate Commerce Committee—about our legislation. With me at the witness table was Yvonne Ambrose, a mother whose 16-year-old daughter, Desiree, was found murdered on Christmas Eve 2016 after being sold for sex on backpage.

Desiree's death should never have happened—and neither should online sex trafficking of minors happen at all—but this tragic trend is compounded by the fact that backpage has evaded justice for its role in these tragic crimes. Courts across the country have consistently ruled that a Federal law—and this is why Congress has such a key role to play here—called the Communications Decency Act actually protects backpage and others from the liability they should have in sex trafficking.

The Communications Decency Act is a well-intentioned law originally enacted back in 1996, when the internet was in its infancy, and it was meant to protect third-party websites from being held liable for crimes that users might commit on those websites. Ironically, part of the original intention of the Communications Decency Act was to protect children from indecent material on the internet by holding liable users who send explicit material to children. Now this same law is being used as a shield by cynical sex traffickers who promote and engage in online underage sex trafficking with impunity, thanks to this Federal law.

Congress didn't intend for this broad immunity in the law—I am convinced of that—but numerous courts across the country have made it clear that their hands are tied because of the legal precedent that has been formed. As the lawmaking branch of the Federal Government, it is up to Congress to fix this injustice. No one else can do it.

In the most blatant call for congressional action I have seen yet, in August of last year, a Sacramento judge cited the broad immunity provided by the Communications Decency Act in dismissing pimping charges against backpage.com. The court opinion stated:

If and until Congress sees fit to amend the immunity law, the broad reach of Section 230

of the Communications Decency Act even applies to those alleged to support the exploitations of others by human trafficking.

That is an invitation to Congress to act. It is clearly up to Congress to act. It is past time we update this 21-year-old law for the 21st century and allow victims who have had their most basic human rights violated to get justice against those who facilitate these crimes.

We have an opportunity this month during National Human Trafficking Prevention Month to fix this. We can and we must.

The Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act, or SESTA, is a bill I introduced with my bipartisan colleagues—Senator BLUMENTHAL, who will speak later this afternoon, and Senators JOHN MCCAIN, CLAIRE MCCASKILL, JOHN CORNYN, HEIDI HEITKAMP, AMY KLOBUCHAR, and 18 other colleagues. As of this morning, that legislation has 64 cosponsors. It is totally bipartisan, supported by both sides of the aisle. It is popular: 64 out of 100 have already cosponsored it because it will fix this injustice with two very narrowly crafted changes to the Communications Decency Act.

First, it will allow victims to get the justice they deserve by removing the Communications Decency Act's broad liability protections the judge discussed, specifically for websites that knowingly facilitate sex trafficking crimes.

Second, it will allow State attorneys general to prosecute these websites that violate Federal sex trafficking laws. These changes will hold bad actors like backpage accountable while doing nothing to impair the free internet. In fact, they will protect websites that do not actively and knowingly engage in online sex trafficking.

The "knowing" standard is a high bar to meet. The California attorney general, Xavier Becerra, testified at the Senate Commerce Committee about that this fall. He said:

We have to prove criminal intent. We can't win a prosecution unless we can show the individuals we're prosecuting, like Backpage, had the intent—the knowledge—to do what they're doing. The legislation we have before you is very narrowly tailored. It goes only after sex trafficking.

The Stop Enabling Sex Trafficking Act passed the Senate Commerce Committee by a vote that was unanimous. It was bipartisan. It was unanimous, and the legislation has the support of an extraordinary coalition of law enforcement organizations, anti-trafficking advocates, trafficking victims, survivors, faith-based groups, and even some major tech players, although some in the tech community continue to be concerned. This includes the Internet Association, which now represents companies such as Facebook, reddit, Amazon, and others. It was endorsed by businesses, including Oracle, 21st Century Fox, Hewlett-Packard Enterprise, and the Walt Disney Company. Other companies such as IBM

and others have stepped up to support it.

Last year, 50 attorneys general across this country wrote a letter calling on Congress to amend the Communications Decency Act in the exact way we are proposing in this bill—50.

Again, in the Senate, a bipartisan group of 64 Senators has now cosponsored the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act. Those 60-plus cosponsors are significant because 60 is how many votes we need in the U.S. Senate if there are objections to the legislation to be able to get it passed. We already have that many Senators who have now put their names down. They said they want to be part of the solution to this tragic problem. They want to stop this increase in sex trafficking that unconscionably is happening in this country in this century.

So we shouldn't wait any longer to pass this bill in the Senate. Every day we do, those who sell women and children will be allowed to continue that, continue to profit, and victims will continue to be denied justice.

It is not an issue of politics or partisanship. It is about preventing exploitation and providing justice. I am hoping we can have a vote on this bill in the Senate this month, during National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. This Thursday is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. I urge the leadership to have the bill on the floor as soon as possible. We have every reason to act and no reason not to.

These victims deserve justice, and Congress should help provide it. Passing the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act is an opportunity.

Thank you.

I yield back my time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I don't know whether it is four, five, or six, but some Senators would like to have colloquy on the issue of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, and I ask unanimous consent that we have that privilege.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DACA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise with my colleagues to offer remarks about the current status of the negotiations on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA Program, as it is known in the U.S. Senate.

Unfortunately, this body still isn't closer to a legitimate and fair deal that accomplishes two goals: First of all, to promote and protect the interests of the American people in a lawful immigration system and, two, provide a fair and equitable solution on DACA.

Back in December, I introduced a bill, along with Senators CORNYN, TILLIS, LANKFORD, PERDUE, and COTTON. The bill, with the acronym SECURE Act of 2017, was a product of months of discussion between this Sen-

ator, these other Senators I just named, and the White House. Our plan, simply put, has five pillars.

First, based on the hard work and leadership of Senator CORNYN, our bill provided real, robust border security by mandating the construction of tactical and technological infrastructure at the border.

Second, our bill took meaningful steps to end the lawlessness of dangerous criminal aliens by cracking down on sanctuary cities, ending the misguided catch-and-release policies of the previous administration, and, finally, taking steps to address intentional visa overstays.

Third, our bill took steps to eliminate many of the "pull" factors that encourage people to immigrate illegally by permanently authorizing the E-Verify Program and by taking meaningful steps to reduce immigration court and asylum adjudication backlogs.

Fourth, thanks to the leadership and advocacy of Senators GRAHAM, PERDUE, and COTTON, our bill eliminated the phenomenon known as chain migration and made a major downpayment toward transitioning to a merit-based immigration system.

Fifth, and finally, our bill provided a bipartisan solution to protect undocumented young people brought to the United States as children by adopting Senator DUREN's Bar Removal of Individuals who Dream and Grow our Economy—that has the acronym BRIDGE Act.

Our plan was fair, serious, and bipartisan. Most importantly, it was and is pro-American. As I have continually said since the bill's introduction, this group of Senators is ready and willing to negotiate with our counterparts in good faith and to find an equitable solution to the DACA situation that incorporates our bill's five pillars of reform.

I said negotiate. I had at least one Democratic Senator infer that I could not negotiate in good faith because I did not vote for the Gang of 8 immigration bill in 2013. So, sadly, our good-faith offers have consistently been rejected by Democratic leadership. Instead, they decide to engage in a game of brinksmanship.

So I ask several questions: Why doesn't Democratic leadership negotiate with us? Because we refuse to simply pass what is referred to as the Dream Act, as is, with no proportional border security and interior enforcement majors. As the Democrats see it, it is take it or leave it, their way or the highway. This isn't good faith, this isn't negotiating, and that approach is doomed to failure.

I have to ask: Why do my colleagues in the Democratic leadership refuse to even consider measures that would beef up border security and interior enforcement? Do they want people to continue to immigrate to this country illegally? Do they want sex offenders and human traffickers to continue to manipulate

our porous border and enter our country unchecked? Do they want criminal illegal immigrants—people like Jose Zarate, who murdered Kate Steinle, or Eswin Mejia, who killed Sarah Root, to roam free in our country? Are they comfortable allowing criminal alien gangs like MS-13, whose motto happens to be “kill, rape, and control,” to continue to terrorize immigrant communities?

I am assuming—in fact, I am hoping—the answer to all of these questions is a resounding no. If that is correct, then why does Democratic leadership refuse to discuss the border security and interior enforcement provisions in the SECURE Act?

Despite the hysteria and the hyperbole you may hear from pro-amnesty, open-border immigrant advocates, the SECURE Act does not contain draconian enforcement measures. If anything, our bill contains the common-sense security and enforcement measures this body has been debating, discussing, and considering for years.

Our bill adds new Border Patrol agents, U.S. attorneys, and judges to make it easier to apprehend, prosecute, and deport illegal entrants and criminal aliens. We authorize money for critically necessary port of entry and exit improvements so we can know who is here, how long they are here, and when they left—if they left.

Our bill increases criminal penalties for human smugglers, these offenses that are committed by repeat offenders, often resulting in death, resulting in human trafficking, and including even sexual assault. We also increase penalties for criminal aliens who commit a crime of violence or a drug trafficking crime.

Our bill makes clear that individuals who engage in acts of terrorism, criminal gang members, aggravated felons, and drunk drivers are not admissible to our country, and makes it clear that they can be put into expedited removal if they somehow make it into our country.

Finally, our bill permanently authorizes the voluntary E-Verify Program, and it also provides incentives for employers to participate in that voluntary program. It doesn't make E-Verify mandatory. It just provides employers certainty by making the program permanent.

I hope, as I described these things, they are seen as commonsense measures. Why would my colleagues on the other side ever want to oppose those provisions? It wasn't that long ago that many Democrats supported border security and interior enforcement. I would like to list some quotes from recent Democratic Presidents who supported some of these propositions.

In his 1996 State of the Union Address, then-President Clinton championed his actions to crack down on illegal immigration. He proudly noted his administration was “increasing border patrol by 50 percent . . . [and] increasing inspections to prevent the hiring of illegal immigrants.”

In 2006, then-Senator, later President Obama spoke in favor of enhanced border security and enforcement measures. He acknowledged, even then, that “we need tougher border security, stronger enforcement measures . . . [we] need more resources for Customs and Border Agents, and more detention beds.”

When speaking in favor of the Secure Fence Act, Mr. Obama said: It would “certainly do some good” and would go a long way in “stem[ming] . . . the tide of illegal immigration in this country.”

Do my colleagues no longer agree with former Presidents Clinton and Obama? Do they no longer believe we need to stem the tide of illegal immigration?

My colleagues on the other side consistently talk about how DACA kids shouldn't be used as bargaining chips for any potential deal. What about the innocent American citizens they are using as bargaining chips? What about the thousands of victims every year of crimes committed by dangerous criminal aliens? Do the lives of these people not matter as well? Does the safety of these people, the happiness of these people, the well-being of these people deserve to be bargained away?

This group of Senators whom I have named who are going to participate in this colloquy remain ready and willing to negotiate in good faith and to make tough sacrifices in order to find common ground on this issue. Our counterparts need to be willing to do the same. I am asking them, pleading with them, in all sincerity, to sit down and have an honest conversation.

Let's strike a deal that is fair to all, including to law-abiding Americans. Any deal cooked up by this poor man's version of a Gang of 8 that doesn't have real border security, doesn't have real interior enforcement measures, and doesn't have the other pillars of reform in the SECURE Act—well, it is pretty simple: That is no deal at all, and I will not support that.

I yield the floor.

I call on my colleague, the Senator from North Carolina, Mr. TILLIS.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, before the chairman leaves the Chamber, I wish to thank him for his leadership as chairman of the Judiciary Committee. He has done an extraordinary job of bringing people together to really come up with a solution to this problem.

This is a problem that has existed for years—almost two decades. The first DREAM Act was filed in 2001, I believe. It has been some 16 years, and they have failed to produce a result. Now, think that through. That was through President Bush, and it was through President Obama. It was actually at a time when, in 2009, not a single Republican vote would have been necessary to pass the DREAM Act. Yet my col-

leagues on the other side of the aisle could not produce a result. So we know we need to do something different.

There are things in the Dream Act that we need to file and put into a bill. In fact, it was instructed into a bill that I and Senator LANKFORD and Senator HATCH filed called the SUCCEED Act. It is a way to provide certainty for the DACA population, but it also needs to be paired up with reasonable border security provisions so that we get the broad base of support we need for enduring policy here.

There are some people who are talking about withdrawing from negotiations and trying to threaten a government shutdown to get something slammed into a year-end spending bill. But if you really care about the long-term certainty that we want to provide these young people who qualified under the DACA Program, the last thing you should do is to play politics and get something half baked into a provision that will always be a target of the next year-end spending bill. Why don't we do something crazy and actually sit down, check our Members on the Republican side and the Democratic side who have extreme views on this issue at the door, and solve the problem.

I have taken a lot of criticism after filing the SUCCEED Act because I had a lot of people who said that I was soft on immigration. Well, I respectfully disagree with some of my friends who are themselves Republicans and conservatives, because I don't think they have it right. I think that the young men and women who qualify under the DACA Program, who were brought to this country through the actions of their parents, through no fault of their own, deserve a respectful, compassionate, physically sustainable solution, and certainty. I have been working on it, and I have been taking the criticism ever since I filed the bill. I even had a congressional district in North Carolina censure me, saying, “shame on you,” for actually coming up with something that made sense.

One thing that I said, though, when we filed that bill, is that what we did in the SUCCEED Act had to be paired with reasonable, sustainable border security measures and interior enforcement measures—things that are important if we want to make sure that a decade from now, 15 years from now we are not back here again worried about a new DACA population that has come across the borders.

I have had some people insisting that having a secure border is not compassionate, that it is unfair, but I would actually submit to my colleagues that not having a secure border is irresponsible. Talking about not being compassionate, allowing things to occur with an unsecured border—to me, having a secure border is a hallmark of compassion. That is a little bit of what I want to talk about. So let's stipulate to that.

Working with Senator DURBIN—and, incidentally, Senator DURBIN and I

have been talking about this issue for about a year and a half—I knew that we were going to be here with the DACA Program and that we needed to work on it. So I reached out to Senator DURBIN and said that I am willing to try to come up with something that makes sense, but we have to be willing to accept something different from all of the random ideas and come with a compromise. We made progress in terms of how to deal with the DACA population, but some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are unwilling to talk about the reality that we should also put into place, and pair with what we do for the DACA population, border security and interior enforcement that makes sense.

Back in February I spent about a week down along the southern border. I was on patrol boats on the Rio Grande. I was riding horseback in certain areas of the border. I was out in the interior area where enforcement actions are taking place every night. I spent a lot of time down there. One thing that struck me was some of the briefings that we received from border security. I am going to get to what I consider to be the most heartbreaking last.

We want to talk about what is going on. We have people come to this floor—my colleagues on the other side of the aisle—and say: We must do something to address the opioid epidemic in this country. I agree. That is why I voted for the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. I spoke on the floor several times as a first step toward trying to get a handle on something that is poisoning almost 60,000 people a year—killing them. They are dying from overdoses in this Nation. The reality is that the vast majority—and we will get to a slide in a minute—of those illicit drugs, including heroin and fentanyl and the other kinds of drugs that are extracted from opium and are killing people, are coming across the southern border. We simply don't have the resources at our land ports and in the areas where drug smugglers cross illegally to stop them. The consequence of that in a State like North Carolina is that more people are dying from drug overdoses today than are dying from automobile accidents—about 1,400 a year. It is even worse in a number of other States.

We were at a land port in Laredo, and they were saying that on any given day, millions of doses are probably getting through because they are concealed. They are hidden in trucks. They don't have the capacity to inspect every vehicle. So they are coming across this border ostensibly legally—obviously, through the legal process of entry—but carrying illicit drugs, and we are only capturing a fraction of them. A part of what we are proposing in this bill is additional resources to interdict more of those drugs, to make it less likely that somebody could come across the border by use of a pickup truck or by using backpacks full of poison that will ulti-

mately get into the blood streams of people who will ultimately die—many of them, tens of thousands a year. That is a case—a compassionate case—border security.

This is the number that I was talking about earlier: 15,469 deaths in 2016 alone related to heroin. A lot of these are coming across the border. But only about 1.5 percent of all of the drugs that are estimated to come across the border are being seized today. How do you actually increase this seizure rate? You put the resources and authorities in place so that the Border Patrol and Customs and immigration resources down on the border can actually find them, and arrest, charge, convict, and incarcerate the people who are poisoning the men and women and boys and girls in this country.

There is also another thing, and this is something that when I was down on the Texas border just stuck with me. I was on a 7,500-acre ranch, which is really, really small in Texas terms. I was talking with the ranch owner, who said that over the last 10 years, they had actually recovered 100 bodies on this ranch alone. If you do the math, that means they are finding a person who has died trying to come to this country illegally about every six weeks on this small ranch. Over the past 20 years, we have had about 10,000 people die crossing the border, and about 1,000 of them are children.

If we had a secure border, at least we would have the knowledge and the situational awareness to know where these people are so that they don't languish somewhere in the middle of nowhere after they cross the border or after they have paid somebody \$1,000, \$5,000, or \$10,000, in some cases, to carry them across the border. Then, they leave them. They take them across the border and then tell them that Houston is just a few miles away. Well, Houston is an hour-and-a-half plane ride away from where they cross the border.

So we need border security for the protection of people who are making the poor decision to come across. If we have a secure border, it is much less likely that any of them will ever attempt to do it, except for the legal ones. Then there is the other thing that is happening on the other side of the border. The 10,000 people who have died over 20 years are those whom we have identified—I am sure there are many more who we didn't—who were found on U.S. soil after crossing the border.

One other thing I learned when I was down in Texas is about the criminal actions and the criminal gangs, basically—they call them plazas and cartels—that basically run every mile of the border. If you pass through one of those plazas and you don't pay the toll, you are likely going to die. In one case, there were 72 people who were murdered because the human smuggler failed to pay the plaza bosses the so-called toll when he was supposed to get them across the border. So they or-

dered the execution of men, women, and children just to send a message. This is one of the many examples that we have.

So there is no question in my mind that of the 10,000 people who have died over the last 20 years on American soil, there were probably thousands or tens of thousands or more who have died in the hopes that they could get across the border.

If we have a secure border and if we work on our immigration systems, we can get for those parents and people who want to come to this country legally an opportunity to get here without harming themselves or harming their children. If that is not a compassionate case for a secure border, I don't know what is.

Now we are in the final stages of trying to negotiate a deal, and Chairman GRASSLEY did a wonderful job of summarizing what we have proposed as a starting position for negotiation with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. I hope they will be willing to come to the table and negotiate in good faith and recognize that their approach over the last 16 years has failed. They promised the Dreamers a solution, and they failed to deliver. They have failed to deliver under a Republican administration. They have failed to deliver under President Obama, when they had supermajorities. We are not going to let them fail this time.

Giving the DACA population certainty, coming up with a solution that makes sense, getting a border that is secure, making sure that the poison that is coming across the border and killing tens of thousands of people a year is reduced, is, in my opinion, the scope that we need to negotiate to get to an agreement. If we have Senator DURBIN, Senator BENNET, and others who have negotiated portions of the immigration issue open their eyes to the broader opportunity to come up with a balanced policy that addresses the concerns on both sides of the aisle, we can be the Congress and President Trump can be the President who actually solve this problem and, along the way, make it far less likely that it will be another problem for another Congress to solve 10 or 15 years from now and that, then, may take 10 or 15 years to solve.

This will have an enduring impact. This will have a compassionate impact. This will provide certainty to the DACA population. This will allow me to go home and say: I did something meaningful to secure the border and protect our Nation. But we have to have people come together and negotiate in good faith. It needs to start this week, and we need to continue it until we come to terms.

People need to be willing to compromise and accept something less than perfect, because everybody's perfect conceptions of what we should do here have all one thing in common: They have all been resounding failures. They have been unkept promises.

Along the way, our homeland is not as secure as it can be, and people are dying in the process. Hard-working people who are eligible for the DACA Program are uncertain about their future.

So, again, I want to thank Chairman GRASSLEY for his hard work and his leadership and willingness to engage. I want to thank the President. I was with the President for an hour and a half last week, along with Chairman GRASSLEY and others. We are going to be meeting again in the White House tomorrow. Hopefully, we will be joined by our Democratic colleagues who have been invited to the meeting, and we will negotiate something that makes sense.

Now is the time for us to deliver. The empty promises of the past are insufficient. We need to provide an enduring solution, and an enduring solution is a fair solution for the DACA population and a responsible solution for border security. If we do that, I think we will look at this as something meaningful—something the Presiding Officer and I did when we came in here in 2015.

We got tax reform. That is meaningful.

We have been promising immigration reform forever. This is not all of it. We have more work to do. But this is a big first step, and it requires bipartisanship, compromise, and a genuine commitment to negotiate.

I hope my Democratic colleagues will take the invitation seriously, come to the table, negotiate an agreement we can all be proud of, and we can give the certainty that we should give to the DACA population.

I thank the chairman for the opportunity to speak on this and for his continued leadership on this issue.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, the Senator has been a leader on this with his separate piece of legislation for a long time.

The next speaker is Senator COTTON; after that is Senator LANKFORD.

In the meantime, I yield the floor to my colleagues as I have a meeting to go to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, I thank Chairman GRASSLEY for his leadership on this issue and for offering the SECURE Act, which I and some of the other Senators have supported.

I wish to continue this debate where Senator TILLIS left off. We have heard a lot today about the so-called DACA Program, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, and the negotiations in which we are currently engaged. Hopefully, those negotiations will reach a solution that will satisfy all the parties and give certain legal protections to the DACA population.

We have heard a lot today about border security and the wall. I want to focus on one other element of a needed, negotiated solution, and that is chain migration—putting an end, once and for all, to chain migration. When you

give legal status to an illegal immigrant, that is a permanent change in law; it will never be reversed. Therefore, you can't simply accept some window dressing at the border—1 year of funding for demonstration or pilot projects. You have to have a permanent change in return for a permanent change, and an end to chain migration will be one of the most important permanent changes to U.S. immigration law in 52 years.

What is chain migration? Under the current law, which dates back to 1965, if you are a citizen, you can bring any one of your relatives to this country, not just your spouse and your unmarried minor kids—your nuclear family—but also your adult kids and their spouses and their children and your adult brother and your adult sister and your parents and then their siblings and so on and so forth. That is why it is called chain migration. Each person is a potential link in a never-ending chain. The vast majority of people who immigrate to our country legally every single year do so for the sole reason that they just happen to be related to someone who is already here.

We have heard a lot of talk about the American dream in recent days—that we are a nation of immigrants; it is part of our core, and that is absolutely right. We are a nation of immigrants. We are a nation where blood ties are not supposed to dictate the path of your life, where you can fulfill your dreams. But we have an immigration system that does the exact opposite—an immigration system that favors the ties of blood, the ties of kinship, the ties of clan, and the ties of tribe. What could be less American than that?

As a result, we have also had a massive wave of low-skilled and unskilled immigrants, over the last 52 years. Today, of the million-plus immigrants who come here every year, only 1 in 15 comes here because of education, job skills, or a job offer. That means we have thousands and thousands of workers, with absolutely no consideration for what it means for the workers who are already here—the workers who are American citizens, who are earning a wage. In many cases, the most recent immigrants are going to face competition from the next wave of unskilled immigrants, so we are putting downward pressure on their wages—the wages of people who work with their hands and work on their feet, who hold the kinds of jobs that require you to take a shower after you get off work, not before you go to work.

Blue-collar workers have begun to see an increase in their wages over the last year for the first time in decades, and that is in no small part because of the administration's efforts to get immigration under control. But it is not enough to stop there.

The real question is, who should our immigration system work for? It should work for the American people, the American worker. It should be crafted for their benefit, not for the

benefit of foreigners. We should have an immigration system that fulfills the needs of our economy, that focuses on jobs and wages for American citizens here, whether your parents came over on the Mayflower or whether you just took the oath of citizenship last week. This is not some radical position. Liberal Democrats used to believe in that.

I understand that in this debate most of the attention is focused on the population of about 690,000 illegal immigrants who came here, through no fault of their own, as young children 15, 20, 30 years ago. I think the concern for them is very understandable. President Trump has shown it. My colleagues have shown it today. I share it as well.

President Obama did them a real disservice by unilaterally and unconstitutionally—therefore unsustainably—giving them legal status in this country to work. President Trump did the right thing by recognizing that President Obama lacked that authority and shouldn't have put them in that position. But nobody in the Senate—I think I can speak for my other 99 colleagues. Nobody is eager to see these people face deportation. Yet, at the same time, if we are going to give them legal status, we have to recognize that inevitably, as an operation of logic, there are two negative consequences that flow from that. You can say that you don't mind them, but you can't say that they don't exist.

First, as you have heard from so many others, you are going to encourage parents from around the world who live in poverty, oppression, strife, and war to illegally immigrate to this country with their small children in hopes of giving their children American citizenship sometime in the future. That is dangerous, and, in my opinion, it is immoral to offer those kind of inducements.

Second, as I have explained, you will create a whole new category of American citizens who can now get legal status for their extended families—to include the very parents who brought them here in violation of law in the first place. As part of this debate, we have often heard the old line that children ought not to pay for the crimes of the parents. Well, if that is the case, can't we at least agree that parents can pay for the crimes of the parents? They are the ones who created the situation in the first place.

President Trump has said, as I have noted, that he wants to protect the DACA population. But at the same time, he has said repeatedly: We must build a wall and secure our border and end chain migration. I agree that we have to build a wall on our border.

I have to say, it is a little amusing to see how our Democratic colleagues have changed their tune on this point. First, they were complaining for weeks that the President hadn't written a border security plan yet. They kept asking for a punch list. A punch list is what your contractor provides you when he is done building your home

but not quite done with every single technical spec. The administration provided that to them just last week.

Now they are complaining that it is too expensive: It is outrageous, in the words from the Senator from Illinois. I want to point out that although the President's proposal would cost \$18 billion—it is over 10 years, so \$1.8 billion a year—the Senator from Illinois has proposed a naked amnesty bill that would cost \$26 billion over 10 years. That is right; \$18 billion is too much to secure our southern border to build a wall and provide more agents and buy more technology, but \$26 billion to provide more welfare for illegal immigrants after they get amnesty is A-OK.

I would also point out that a lot of Democrats supported the Secure Fence Act just over a decade ago—building over 700 miles the physical barrier on our southern border. Maybe I can propose new grounds for starting negotiations. How about we simply agree as a baseline that we will fully fund the hundreds of miles of physical barriers that the Senate minority leader voted for just 12 years ago?

They also supported the so-called Gang of 8 bill 5 years ago, which also would have built hundreds of miles of physical barrier on our southern border. What has changed since then?

All that being said, building a wall will help stop illegal immigration, but it will not fix all the problems to the law itself. That is why I have said, as the President has said, we also have to deal with that second consequence—ending chain migration.

One trial balloon I have heard floated in recent days is that a negotiated piece of legislation could eliminate the immigration preference for the adult, unmarried kids of legal permanent residents, green card holders. That is perfectly fine. We should do that, for sure. But to act as if that alone would end chain migration is preposterous. It will delay a very small part of chain migration—only delay, only delay a very small part—about 26,000 of the more than 300,000 people who come here a year through family preferences. It doesn't even touch the preference for the adult, unmarried children of citizens or parents or siblings of citizens and green card holders alike.

In other words, once these young people in the DACA population become citizens, then they will be able to get legal status for their relatives, which means, far from stopping chain migration, it will actually accelerate the naturalization process and the chain we are trying to stop in the first place.

The time has come to end this foolish, unwise, and, indeed, dangerous policy, as we saw just a few weeks ago in the most recent attempted terror attack in New York, which had at its initiating point someone who had come into this country because of chain migration. Not a single advanced, industrialized nation has such a lax immigration policy as we do when it comes to immigrant families—not Canada,

not the United Kingdom, not France, not Germany, not New Zealand, not Japan.

If we are actually going to fix this problem—if we are going to do right by the American worker, if we are going to promote the American dream and American ideals, then it is time for these mindless family preferences and chain migration to come to an end.

I yield the floor, and I yield to my colleague from Oklahoma.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, it is an interesting conversation we can finally have about immigration. This has been that topic which has been discussed for a while but not settled.

For 20 years, this body has talked about solving some of our immigration issues. National security immigration hasn't been a partisan issue until of late. Suddenly, when President Trump brings it up, we have a bunch of folks who used to be for border security but are now against border security because President Trump wants border security—with some of the exact same ideas that have been in the Gang of 8 bill or were in previous versions or were even talked about with a secure wall or fence before. Almost every Democrat in this body voted for the Secure Fence Act of 2006.

It is interesting to me the number of people who contact us saying: We do not want to build a wall. I have said: What about the 650 miles of wall that already exists and was put in place after 2006, which, by the way, President Obama, when he was Senator Obama, wholeheartedly supported and voted for?

This is suddenly a partisan issue. I am trying to help our entire body take a step back and say: Immigration should be a humanity issue and a legal issue, not a political issue.

I had a conversation with a friend of mine this weekend. We have known each other for years. He is a pastor. We started talking about the immigration issue. In that dialogue, he said to me: In the church, we look at every individual as an individual created in the image of God, and the church has a ministry to be able to reach out, regardless of legal status.

Then he said, right behind it: But, in government, we understand there is a different responsibility. The church engages with every person equally, but the government has the responsibility of looking at laws—what is legal and what is not legal—and helping abide by those laws and enforcing those laws.

He is correct. There is an issue of humanity in this. These are people caught in a system, and oftentimes those children in the DACA Program are caught in a gap in which literally they have no home country. They were brought as infants or as young children with a parent who violated the law but did so with a child who came in and has now lived in the country, in some cases 20 years, and they know only this coun-

try. They are literally caught in the middle. While we have great compassion, we are walking this interesting balance between compassion for people, which we as a nation have, and also consistency with the law. The law applies to every person. Whether you are the President of the United States or an undocumented individual who has come in, the law applies to everyone.

What do we do with this? The first thing I think we need to do is take a deep breath and pull the politics out of this and to say border security—in fact, security as a whole is not a controversial issue. I will tell you, as a U.S. Senator, I have the privilege occasionally of going to do interviews. Let me give you an example. CNN has a great studio in Washington, DC. When you go to the studio in Washington, DC, you go through the front door of a big building. There is a security person there, and they will check your ID before you go any farther. Not only will they check your ID, they make sure you are already preregistered to be there to visit with CNN because you can't just walk in. You have to notify them ahead of time you are coming, even if you are the person being interviewed. Then, there is a physical barrier between you and the elevators. Once the security guard clears you, you go through the physical barriers, but you can't go up the elevator because the security guard has to clear you to actually go up that elevator and punch in a certain code to go up to the floor. When you arrive at that floor, you are literally in nowhere land because everywhere around you are locked doors until someone comes in and clears you. You go to another security guard, and you sign in with that security guard, again check ID, and then you have an escort who takes you into the studio. That escort stays with you because as soon as your interview is done, they will smile at you and say: Your time is up. We are going to escort you out.

It is a shame CNN has to do that, but they do because not everybody who walks through their doors means to do them no harm. There are some people who mean to do them harm, and it is right for them to keep that level of security.

For that level of security that we talked about for CNN, all of us see that as rational—unfortunate but rational. I would say to us as a nation, why is that rational at CNN headquarters, and it is irrational for us to be able to do the same thing with our own borders? Not everyone who crosses our border is there to help us. We can all admit, there are some individuals—a few thankfully—who do mean to cross our borders and do us harm. We should be aware of that. We have half a million people a day who legally cross our border, our southern border, alone—half a million people a day who cross back and forth, who legally go through the system. They are doing commerce. They are visiting family. There are all

kinds of individuals who move back and forth through our gates legally every single day. We should ask the question: Why are half a million people moving through legally but yet there are thousands and thousands who are moving through illegally? What is the difference, and should we ask questions of some of those people? Should there be a physical barrier in some spots?

We have seen some places like in Yuma, AZ, when there wasn't a physical barrier and there is a large city right on the border and someone would cross the border quickly, commit a crime, and move right back across the border. When a physical barrier was put in place a decade ago in Yuma, AZ, the crime rate dropped dramatically in that area. The physical barrier helped and did reduce crime.

I have had people say, if you build a 30-foot wall, there will be a 31-foot ladder leaning against it. That is true, but it slows them down and gives enough time in remote areas or in heavily urbanized areas for people to be able to respond and be able to interdict those individuals. Walls don't stop people. They slow people down so you can actually do interdiction and ask: Why are you going over the wall rather than through the gates like half a million other people are doing today?

Why is that happening? That is not unreasonable, but it has become heavily politicized. We need to step back and remove this from a conversation about Presidents and about political parties and move it back to some basic, commonsense things—things this Congress used to do with wide, bipartisan support—things like a physical barrier. There should be a wall in certain areas of the southern border that don't have a wall right now. There should be areas of technology in other areas. There should be an area to have watch towers with cameras that are there. We should add some additional personnel. We are talking about 3,000-plus miles on our northern border, 2,000 miles on our southern border. That is a lot of territory to be able to cover. Some of those areas don't even have broadband access to it, so just getting information to the agents who work there takes a very long time or is unreliable. We do need to have some technology improvements in some of those areas. Should every part of our border have a wall? No, I don't think so. It shouldn't all have a wall, but in heavily populated areas, it probably should because that provides greater security, quite frankly, on both sides of the border.

Some of it is even more simple than that. There are areas where there are large amounts of cane that is growing up in the Rio Grande River, and the Border Patrol agents can't see on both sides of the river who is moving through because people can hide in the cane. Just eradicating the cane that is all through that area on the border, in the river area, would provide tremendous visibility. That would allow people to be able to see farther and, quite

frankly, stop some of the drug movement and allow for more interdiction in those areas. It shouldn't be that controversial. That should be common sense—adding technology, adding sensors, adding greater visibility, adding a wall in areas where a wall is needed, and in other areas that don't need a wall, we don't.

That is not just the issue. Some of the issue is fixing loopholes in the law that get exploited. There are some individuals who cross the border, and they know the rules. The coyotes in Central America who are actually humans smuggling them all the way through Mexico and getting them to the border have told them exactly what to say. When they encounter a Border Patrol agent, they say: Say these words, and you will get access to asylum, whether they are true or not.

The way it typically starts is, they say those words the coyotes have told them to say, and they actually get a quick hearing and what is called a notice to appear for another hearing, which is usually 2 or 2½ years later. They disappear somewhere into the American system, and we have no idea where they are. They are somewhere among 300-plus million Americans in some town, and we don't know where they are. The vast majority of them never show up for the court hearings, but they have a piece of paper that says "notice to appear," which also means they are given legal protections until that court date, and they can move around the country.

That is a loophole in our system. It should be fixed. Nowhere else would they do that. Why do we do that? We allow ourselves to be exploited. There are some words and phrases that we need to be able to clean up in the law and some things that need to be done. Again, that shouldn't be controversial. It should be security related. There should be some basic questions about how we are going to handle immigration.

We allow 1 million people a year to become citizens of the United States legally—1 million people a year. Yet the American system is also ignoring hundreds of thousands of others who are coming into the system illegally and pretending it is not happening. It is. For 20 years, this Congress has not paid attention to it.

Say what you would like to about President Trump, but he is pushing this Congress to do something it has not done in two decades—deal with the issue of border security. This body will have to come to agreement on that. The House of Representatives will have to come to agreement on that, and the President will have to be able to sign it or it will be just another Executive action that will not last very long. If we are going to have lasting, real change in border security, it has to go through the legislative process.

The President is pushing us to get that done before the first week of March. We had 6 months of time. Four

months of that has already run out. It is time to get that document finished, to deal with the basic things the President has asked for—border security, a legal status for those individuals who are in the DACA Program whom the previous President just put into deferred action status—that we will not arrest them, but they are in some sort of legal limbo in between. President Trump wants to have a permanent answer for all of those families. Dealing with things on border security, not just the wall but the other exceptions to it. The President wants to deal with the visa lottery, which is a system where the names of 50,000 people somewhere in the world are just randomly drawn out of a hat to be able to become American citizens.

Many of us said for a long time, that is a foolish way to do your immigration system. Our immigration system should be based on what we need in America—what jobs, what locations—rather than randomly pulling names of people around the world out of a hat. I understand there are millions and millions of people around the world who would love to be Americans, but in America, we want to be able to target those individuals who want to not just be Americans but want to be a part of us, not just culturally but economically, to be part of the fabric of whom we are, to make decisions for ourselves as a nation, and to do it not just in our own policy but also our own immigration policy. It is not too much to ask.

There are basic things that should be done. Dealing with the DACA students who are literally caught in a place where they have no home is a compassionate thing to do, but along with our compassion, we also need to uphold the law. Those kids should not be held to account for what their parents did, but their parents should not have the same access to the American system of being naturalized as the kids do—only because the parents did intentionally violate the law. They chose to break the law and bring their child with them when they did it. The child didn't make that decision. Now they are growing up in a place where they have no country. They should have a shot at being in our Nation. I do not believe the parents of those kids—who broke the law—should have that same access to our system. That may seem heartless, but I will tell you, that is the balance we have to have between compassion for people and upholding the law; that the law does apply to all people. Maybe there is a way to do some other work permits or some other things that could be there, but access to citizenship should be reserved for those individuals who are upholding the law, not violating it.

There are some DACA kids who have done some remarkable stuff, some DACA kids who are pretty amazing individuals. I ask folks in Oklahoma when I am home, if I could identify for you 700,000 people somewhere around the world who speak English, who are excellent students, who have stood up

every day in their school and pledged allegiance to the United States of America, who are in our military already, who are already working in our economy right now, are those the individuals you want to reach out to and be part of that 1 million people a year who become citizens? I have yet to have someone tell me: No, that is not whom we are looking for. Everyone says: That is exactly whom we are looking for.

I get to smile at them and say: They are already here. They just happen to have grown up in this country already, but they have no home and would love to call this one their home.

I would like to give them the opportunity to earn the ability to be naturalized—not automatic, to earn it—and go through the process, to get in line like every other person around the world, to get in line but not have to return to their home country because they don't know a home country, but get in line here to do it.

There is a way to be able to do this. The President has been the first advocate for that. There is a way to be able to actually answer the problems we have dealt with for 20 years on border security so we don't continue to have another DACA Program in 5 years, in 10 years, and over and over again as we are right now. Let's solve it.

Interestingly enough, in 2012, when President Obama announced the DACA Program, he made some pretty blunt, clear statements during that time period. One of them was, for individuals—this was in June of 2012—who are already here, he set a date. He said: For those individuals, our Nation wants to provide an opportunity to not be arrested, and we will work on your status, but for any future individuals who cross our border, you will not have access to this program.

That is President Obama who made that statement in 2012. While I have heard individuals say we should abide by the words of our Presidents, when President Obama made those statements to those kids in 2012, I would remind us as a nation, we should honor all of those statements, if we do any of those statements, including President Obama's statements saying that this will end, and people who are crossing our border will be returned to their home country.

As he announced publicly, there is a right way to be able to do immigration. Let's do it the right way. We already receive 1 million a year. Let's do it the right way, and you will find a very welcoming United States of America.

That is where I think we can go, and I hope in the days ahead we can finish out a negotiation and be able to resolve some basic things—not everything in immigration but at least the core issues of immigration and border security so we can resolve the issue not only for the kids in DACA but continue to be able to work on how we are securing our Nation for the future.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IRAN

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, before I turn to the main portion of my remarks, I wish to speak briefly on the situation in the Middle East.

The protests across cities in Iran reflect the failed leadership of a corrupt regime. The Ayatollah's negligence in denying the basic rights of his own people is inexcusable. Instead of allocating resources to care for families in need, the regime has chosen to use what economic gains it has accrued through the Iran deal to fund terrorism and sectarian violence in Syria, Yemen, Lebanon, and elsewhere in the region. I stand with the Iranian people in their demand for prosperity and freedom, and I call upon my colleagues in Congress to do the same.

REMEMBERING THOMAS S. MONSON

Madam President, I wish to devote the remainder of my remarks to honoring the memory of a dear friend, President Thomas S. Monson, a beloved leader whose love for God and his fellow man defined a lifetime of selfless service. President Monson passed away quietly last week, with friends and family gathered by his bedside.

Today, I join millions across the globe in mourning the loss of an extraordinary man whom, as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we have long looked upon as a prophet, seer, and revelator. I also wish to extend my deepest sympathies to President Monson's family, especially his children—Thomas, Ann, and Clark. Although we are saddened by President Monson's passing, we take comfort in knowing that he has been reunited with his wife Frances, his lifelong friend and eternal companion.

President Monson was born in Salt Lake City in 1927 to G. Spencer Monson and Gladys Condie Monson. Growing up during the Great Depression, young Tom was greatly influenced by his parents, who taught him the importance of taking care of others. From an early age, Tom displayed a remarkable concern for the most vulnerable among us, and throughout his life, he showed that concern and worked on solving problems for them.

When Tom was just a boy, he had two beloved pet rabbits, to which he tended every day, but when he heard of a destitute family in his neighborhood, a family so down on their luck that they had nothing to eat for Christmas dinner, Tom did what few little boys would ever do: He gave his two pet rabbits to his neighbors so they could have a nice Christmas meal. Yet, when little Tommy returned home to see his empty rabbit hutch, tears filled his

eyes, but these were tears of gratitude for the joy he had felt in helping others. Selflessness, service, and sacrifice—these would soon become the virtues by which Thomas Monson lived his life, and everybody who knew him knows that.

Following graduation from West High School, President Monson attended the University of Utah, where he met Frances Johnson during his freshman year. Around the same time, he joined the U.S. Navy and served in the waning days of World War II. After the war, he graduated cum laude from the University of Utah with a bachelor's degree in business management. Shortly thereafter, he married Frances in the Salt Lake Temple.

Following graduation, President Monson was hired by the Deseret News to work in the paper's advertising department. He worked in various positions for the newspaper and eventually became the general manager of the Deseret Press.

As he was just beginning his professional career, President Monson was called at the exceptionally young age of 22 to be a bishop of a Mormon congregation. That hardly ever happens in the LDS Church. In this position, he was charged with leading a congregation of more than 1,000 members. Then, at the age of 31, Tom was again called to a leadership position typically reserved for older men when he was asked to serve as president of the LDS mission in Canada and preside over a whole raft of young missionaries. When he was only 36, Tom was called as a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, among the most influential positions in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In 2008, he was sustained as president of the church, overseeing the day-to-day operations of a faith with millions of followers. The church witnessed record growth during his tenure as president, with more than 2 million men and women joining the ranks of converts of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Whether as a prophet, as an apostle, as a mission president, or as a friend, President Monson simply took care of people. One particular story stands out among the rest. When he was a young bishop, there were 84 widows in his congregation. During the Christmas holiday, he would visit each and every one of them, ensuring that they were all provided with a good holiday meal. Even after President Monson was released as bishop, he continued to stay in contact with each one of these widows—writing letters, making phone calls, and frequently visiting them in their homes. In fact, President Monson remained so close with each of these 84 widows that he eventually spoke at all of their funerals. That is a real record.

President Monson's example of intimate, individual ministry underscored what was most remarkable about his leadership. Although he presided over a church of millions, his focus was always on the one. Although tasked with

making administrative decisions affecting thousands of people the world over, his lifelong commitment was to serving individuals in need. Although an expert manager, he was first and foremost a disciple of Jesus Christ, a man of remarkable kindness, unwavering love, and preternatural empathy.

President Monson was a servant first and a leader second. Endless are the stories in which he would drop everything, sometimes even leaving church meetings early over which he was presiding, to visit a grieving widow, bless a sickly child, or minister to a family in need. Both on macro and micro levels, President Monson was intimately involved in building up the Kingdom of God, and he was perhaps the greatest living example of Christ's admonition to find the one lost sheep who has gone astray and take him back to the fold.

Of President Monson's boundless charity, Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin once said:

Tom has given everything to [those in need], including the shirt off his back. I mean it! I've seen him give away his suits and his shirts and his shoes.

President Monson was among the greatest men I have ever known. Service was his motto and humility his hallmark. Countless were the lives he touched as a prophet, father, and friend. He emulated Jesus Christ in every particular, helping all of us draw closer to God by drawing all of us closer to each other.

I am so grateful for the life of my dear friend and for the example he left for everyone to follow. He was a friend of mine. He showed me great friendship and at times stood up for me. I will never forget one time he leaned over to me and said: "I vote for you." That meant so much to me. All I can say is that having his vote was very important to me. The man was one of the greatest men I have ever met on this Earth—a man of humility, a man of effort, a man of distinction, a man of love and compassion, a man who really knew how to work with other people, a man who loved his fellow men and women, a man who worked in a consecrated manner all the days of his life for Jesus Christ and his ministry. I am going to personally miss him. I believe that his imprint on not just the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—commonly nicknamed the Mormon Church—but around the world is going to be very difficult to ever forget.

God bless the remaining family. I hope everything will go well with them. I intend to attend the funeral if I can and hopefully lend whatever I can to honoring one of the greatest men I have ever met in my life, and I have met a lot of really great men and women.

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. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of William L. Campbell, Jr., of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee.

Mitch McConnell, Deb Fischer, John Barrasso, John Thune, Roger F. Wicker, James M. Inhofe, Johnny Isakson, Mike Crapo, Tom Cotton, Chuck Grassley, Thom Tillis, Mike Rounds, Michael B. Enzi, James Lankford, Lindsey Graham, Pat Roberts, Todd Young.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of William L. Campbell, Jr., of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 89, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 2 Ex.]

YEAS—89

Baldwin	Cotton	Hoeven
Barrasso	Crapo	Inhofe
Bennet	Daines	Johnson
Blumenthal	Duckworth	Jones
Blunt	Durbin	Kaine
Booker	Enzi	Kennedy
Boozman	Ernst	King
Brown	Feinstein	Klobuchar
Burr	Fischer	Lankford
Cantwell	Flake	Leahy
Capito	Gardner	Lee
Cardin	Gillibrand	Manchin
Carper	Graham	Markey
Casey	Grassley	McCaskill
Cassidy	Harris	McConnell
Cochran	Hassan	Menendez
Collins	Hatch	Merkley
Coons	Heinrich	Moran
Cornyn	Heitkamp	Murkowski
Cortez Masto	Heller	Murphy

Murray	Sasse	Tillis
Nelson	Schatz	Udall
Paul	Schumer	Van Hollen
Peters	Scott	Warner
Portman	Shaheen	Warren
Reed	Shelby	Whitehouse
Risch	Smith	Wicker
Rounds	Stabenow	Wyden
Rubio	Sullivan	Young
Sanders	Thune	

NAYS—1

Hirono

NOT VOTING—10

Alexander	Isakson	Tester
Corker	McCain	Toomey
Cruz	Perdue	
Donnelly	Roberts	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 89, the nays are 1.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Texas.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this last weekend I had the honor of going to Camp David with Members of both the House and the Senate to meet with the President and Vice President and members of his Cabinet to talk about the prospects for 2018. After a very successful 2017, we are now looking forward to what sort of legislation we can do on a bipartisan basis that will help us build on those successes of 2017. Many of these are domestic priorities, but, of course, others are national security in nature.

Our internal strength, of course, affects our diplomacy and military effectiveness abroad, and where we were located, at Camp David, actually demonstrates that. It was, after all, the site for secret talks to negotiate the Camp David Accords, historic peace agreements signed by Israel and Egypt in 1978. What happened on American soil ultimately changed the global landscape, and it wasn't the only time. Over the years, Camp David has come to represent peace. It is a place where leaders put aside their differences to look to avoid conflict.

Nonetheless, today we have to admit, given the global environment, that peace is imperiled. We have recently seen that in Iran, where the largest wave of protests in more than a decade have revealed widespread discontent not only with Iran's economy but also as a result of the actions taken by its military, which has supported Hezbollah and other terrorist organizations around the world. As a matter of fact, Iran is the No. 1 state-sponsor of international terrorism, which is one reason why many of us blanched at the idea of releasing money to Iran as part of the joint agreement on Iran's nuclear program—money that they could then plow back into their support for organizations like Hezbollah and their aggressive support for terrorist organizations generally.

Last week the Trump administration imposed sanctions on five entities tied to Iran's ballistic missile program. Apparently, Tehran continues to care more about funding its terrorist proxies across the Middle East than supporting its own citizens, and frustrated

Iranians rightfully have said: Enough already; we are not going to take it anymore.

As Secretary Mnuchin said last week, here in the United States we shouldn't "hesitate to call out the [Iranian] regime's economic mismanagement, and diversion of significant resources to fund threatening missile systems at the expense of its citizenry." The Secretary is exactly right.

Meanwhile, the situation in North Korea remains precarious. That country—and I say this unequivocally—must denuclearize. That is why I recently introduced a resolution with many of my colleagues here in the Senate.

The purpose of the resolution is to expressly declare that Congress is unified in its condemnation of the increasingly hostile and intransigent behavior of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Since Kim Jong Un took power 6 years ago, he has ordered at least four nuclear tests, including the September detonation of what his regime—and outside experts generally agree—said was a hydrogen bomb.

Despite great efforts made by the United States, including a recent Executive order by the President, North Korea's history as a bad-faith negotiator continues unabated on the world stage. It obstinately violates diplomatic norms and human rights at will and was recently redesignated, itself, as a state sponsor of terrorism.

The resolution I referred to a moment ago asserts that the United States, as well as the United Nations Security Council and our regional allies, should continue to implement the absolute strictest of sanction regimes in an effort to get the regime's attention and hopefully bring them to the table as part of this path forward toward denuclearization. We must continue to exhaust every reasonable diplomatic option necessary to achieve the complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs.

Our resolution also recognizes that the President has the constitutional responsibility to protect the United States and our allies, but it emphasizes that congressional authorization is necessary prior to committing U.S. forces to a sustained military operation on the Korean Peninsula. In other words, under the Constitution, the President has his responsibilities and duties, and Congress has its responsibilities and duties, and this resolution recognizes both. We look forward to working together closely with the President in a unified front this year to confront North Korea, as well as rogue actors elsewhere.

President Trump, we know, does not take our national security threats lightly. He has a world-class national security team, with General Mattis, Secretary Tillerson, and Director Pompeo, just to name three. In an im-

portant speech last month, the President outlined the four pillars of his administration's national security strategy.

He said the first pillar is to protect our homeland. We can't secure our Nation if we can't secure our own borders, and we can't secure our borders unless we confront, both at home and abroad, the threat of terrorism and ideologies bent on doing us great harm.

Second, the President said that we need to promote American prosperity because the only way we are going to be strong militarily and at the homeland is if we have the resources and economy to pay for it. Economic growth at home is critical for our influence around the globe as well. We, of course, took a big step in this direction by passing tax reform last month, but a lot more needs to be done to continue to grow our economy and to return America to its historic prosperity—like updating and not scrapping the North American Free Trade Agreement and other trade agreements, for example, and rebuilding our national infrastructure, which was also on the agenda at Camp David this weekend.

The President's third pillar of the national security strategy is to preserve peace through strength. We usually attribute that concept to Ronald Reagan, but of course he is not the first or the last to recognize the joinder of peace and strength. President Trump said in his speech that "weakness is the surest path to conflict, and unrivaled power is the most certain means of defense."

I think he is exactly right—which means we have to end the defense sequester that started with the Budget Control Act of 2011. I supported our efforts to rein in discretionary spending, but the fact is, only about 30 percent of the money that the Federal Government spends is actually appropriated, and a little more than half of that is defense spending. I simply cannot in good conscience agree to continue those budget caps for defense spending without considering the increase in risks to our men and women in uniform and our country's national security generally. We have to continue to modernize our military, which we started last year by reauthorizing the Defense Authorization Act.

Fourth, the President's strategy asserts that we have to advance American influence in the world through strong alliances and by championing our core values without apology. As the President said:

A nation that does not protect prosperity at home cannot protect its interests abroad. A nation that is not prepared to win a war is a nation not capable of preventing a war. A nation that is not proud of its history cannot be confident in its future. And a nation that is not certain of its values cannot summon the will to defend them.

I couldn't have said it any better myself.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

CHIP AND COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today marks a sad and, frankly, shocking day for too many of America's children and hard-working families because it has now been 100 days since funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program and community health centers expired.

History has shown us that there is a whole lot that can get done in 100 days. It took Thomas Jefferson only 17 days to write the Declaration of Independence; the brave allied forces who landed on D-day advanced through France and liberated Paris in only 80 days; and Congress managed to pass 15 major pieces of legislation during President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's first 100 days in office. Yet, here we are, 100 days past the deadline of September 30, and Congress still hasn't managed to pass long-term legislation to reauthorize what we call CHIP—the Children's Health Insurance Program—and to fund our community health centers.

We have a strong bipartisan bill funding CHIP, which was passed out of committee. I give our chairman and ranking member kudos for working together. I was proud to work with them. It came out of committee with only one "no" vote and has waited and waited and waited on the floor of the Senate. Senator BLUNT and I have a bipartisan bill to continue funding community health centers, and 70 Members of the Senate have signed a letter supporting long-term funding for community health centers, which expired September 30—100 days ago.

Right now, we are in a situation where 9 million children and their parents don't know what is going to happen long term. As soon as this month, 100,000 children and their families in Michigan have begun to get letters saying that their children will lose coverage, and they are trying to figure out what is going on.

Imagine being a parent who is working hard. A lot of folks I know are working two jobs, trying to hold it together. You don't have health insurance; you earn too much for your children to be able to get Medicaid health insurance, so the Children's Health Insurance Program is your lifeline. It is your lifeline. It gives you peace of mind to know that if your daughter falls and breaks her arm or your son gets a cough that won't go away, you can take them to the doctor.

What if those children have something worse than a broken arm or a cough? What if they are diagnosed with type 1 diabetes or asthma or cancer? Just imagine being that parent and getting a letter which says that your child may no longer have health insurance. It is not necessary. This is not necessary.

We could do this tomorrow. If we thought it was important enough to bring it to the floor, we could get a vote—and I believe it would be overwhelmingly bipartisan—tomorrow if

there were a sense of urgency, an understanding, about how these parents feel and how these children feel.

So what would you do if you got that letter? Would you tell your kids? You don't want them to worry about it. What would you do? I believe hard-working families—and we are talking about working families, people with jobs, working—deserve better.

Then we have community health centers that serve 25 million people across the country, including 300,000 veterans and 7.5 million children. Our health centers are doing a phenomenal job. At more than 260 sites across Michigan, our health centers are serving 681,000 people, including about 13,000 Michigan veterans.

This month, health centers that were supposed to receive a new 12-month grant are only getting a small amount of funding to get them through the next few weeks, not knowing what is going to happen again. By June, Michigan's community health centers will lose over \$80 million in funding, and over 99,000 patients will lose care.

Last month, I had the opportunity to visit two of our great Michigan community health centers, each of their networks operating more than one site—Hamilton Community Health Network in Flint and Western Wayne Family Health Centers in Inkster. Like clinics across Michigan, these centers are serving literally thousands of Michigan families every day—people of Michigan who don't have medical care for one reason or another. Now those thousands of people are at risk of having no place to go if they get sick or if they need preventative care so that they don't get sick.

Hamilton Community Health Network will run out of funding in April, and Western Wayne Family Health Centers will not get their full funding this month. They were asking me: Should they lay people off? How should they be planning for their centers? What should they be doing?

That means 15,500 people are wondering what will happen to them if they or their children get sick or slip on the ice—which there is a lot of in Michigan—and sprain an ankle.

Felicia knows what it is like to live under that cloud of fear. She wrote me a letter indicating that in 2011 she was an AmeriCorps volunteer serving in Lansing and didn't have health insurance. When she started feeling tired all the time and losing weight, she went to the Center for Family Health in Jackson, MI, another great center. The Center for Family Health, which served 29,000 patients in 2016, will run out of funding in March if we don't act.

Felicia was diagnosed with stage 4 Hodgkin's lymphoma—pretty scary stuff. The Center for Family Health helped her get her health coverage through Medicaid and care from the University of Michigan, including chemotherapy and later a stem cell transplant.

Felicia wrote me:

Now I am feeling awesome, I am cancer-free, and I am working part time while I am finishing up college. I feel that I owe my life to the Center for Family Health.

Felicia knows the importance of community health centers; one in Michigan saved her life. People like Felicia and children who are covered by the Children's Health Insurance Program, which we call MICHild in Michigan, shouldn't have to wait a day longer. They are counting on us to get this done. It has been 100 days of uncertainty that did not have to happen.

Let me say that again. We have a bipartisan bill reported out of the Finance Committee. The House has reported their version. There is no reason we can't immediately put a 5-year extension on the floor of the Senate.

Senator BLUNT and I and our cosponsors of our bill have always assumed that once CHIP came to the floor, we would be adding in community health centers, for which there is strong support, and we would be able to get this done. People would know that their neighborhood health center is there. Their children can go to the doctor instead of sitting for hours in the emergency room. They would be able to see their doctor if they got sick. It has been 100 days since funding has expired for community health centers and children's health insurance. That is 100 days too many.

I have been coming to the floor every week to say: Let's do it today. Let's do it tomorrow. We don't have to wait and hold them as bargaining chips in some bigger appropriations negotiation. These are families. These are kids. These are people who want to have confidence in us that we will do our jobs. This one can get done. It could have gotten done before the holidays. What a great Christmas present that would have been. It can get done now.

On behalf of the 25 million people who use those community health centers, the 9 million children and their parents who use the Children's Health Insurance Program, I call on all of us to have the sense of urgency and the leadership—the leader—to bring this up. We can get it done in a day. We would all feel good about it because it would be something we would be doing together instead of having these families wait and wait.

Mr. President, before yielding, I want to acknowledge our newest Senator, Mr. JONES, who is here, and thank him. Even as he was in his happiness, and rightly so, on the evening he found out he was going to be the next Senator, he mentioned CHIP. In listening to that acceptance speech, it did my heart good to know that children's health insurance was at the top of our newest Senator's mind at that important time, and it is a pleasure to see him on the floor this evening.

I believe the Senator from Arizona is here.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

DACA

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, over the past couple of months, we have seen a lot of effort with regard to immigration reform and in particular to address the situation of the so-called DACA kids, the Dreamers who were brought here through no fault of their own and are now protected—many of them—through the DACA Program. But those protections will run out on March 5. In fact, some have lost their protections already. So there is a great impetus and urgency to deal with this program.

I have said from the beginning that in order to establish a long-term resolution and to provide regulatory certainty, a true DACA fix must be a bipartisan solution. Over the past year, the two big items this Chamber and the Congress have dealt with—healthcare reform and tax policy—have been done under rules of reconciliation, meaning that if we could get a bare majority of Republican votes, that would be enough, if we could keep all the Republicans together. That is no longer the case with our approach to DACA. We are not under rules of reconciliation. It will require 60 votes, meaning that only a bipartisan solution will do. That is why I have been working on such a measure with my Republican and Democratic colleagues in Congress, as well as the White House.

As I have said repeatedly, on this issue, I believe that the President's instincts are better than some of the advice that he gets. I truly believe that he does want a solution for these young immigrants. I hope we can get there. We will have a meeting tomorrow at the White House—a bipartisan meeting—to try to get a little farther down the road.

Let me stress that a lot of words that are highly charged are thrown around this immigration debate. No word is perhaps more highly charged than the word "amnesty." That has been thrown around by a number of my colleagues. I would suggest that is not the case here with the DACA kids. Amnesty, by definition, is an unconditional pardon for a breach of law. I don't think a child who was brought across the border by the parents has committed a violation of the law—not the child; certainly the parents but not the child. To provide relief for those kids and to allow them to stay in the only country they know I don't think should be called amnesty. Yet that highly charged word is often used. To suggest that anyone pursuing a bipartisan solution is proposing amnesty I think is misleading, and it sets back the cause of trying to fix the situation.

A proposal that we are drafting—this bipartisan group—offers a pathway to citizenship for only a specific group of young immigrants—as I mentioned, those who were brought here through no fault of their own. These are immigrants who are serving in the military, who are seeking education, who are holding good jobs. They will be required to continue to do so before they

can have a chance to earn citizenship. As for the parents of these young immigrants, nobody can deny the fact that they did break the law, and any bipartisan proposal on DACA cannot and will not reward them for this behavior.

I agree with the President when he said that dealing with DACA is a very difficult subject but that we must do so with heart. I believe that has been the case for those in this Chamber who have tried for 16 years to get a solution for these kids.

We have to prioritize border security measures, obviously, to determine which ones are sensible to include in a DACA measure. We will go beyond simply dealing with these DACA kids with some border security measures, but we have to find out which ones are sensible and make sense to include in this limited measure and table those that should be considered for the future.

I have been part of comprehensive immigration reform efforts in the past. I look forward to being part of comprehensive immigration reform efforts later this year, but this is not that. We have a very specific purpose to achieve before the 5th of March. The commitment we got was to have a bipartisan bill on the Senate floor by January 31. I believe we need to have that in order to have enough runway to get this done by March 5.

The White House, after much urging on our part, finally sent a list over as to what should be considered part of the border security plan. As I mentioned, many of these items need to be addressed. Maybe all of the items need to be addressed, but they need to be addressed as part of a larger, more comprehensive effort, not the limited fix we are going to do before March 5. I am all in when it comes to comprehensive immigration reform. I look forward to that debate. But we have to understand that we can't do it all before March 5 if we are going to protect these kids.

Some will say: Well, we get to March 5, if we can't do it, then we just kick the can down the road again with some other protection.

I think the courts have made it clear that what was done prior to this—the DACA Program itself—was not constitutional, and should we simply say we are going to extend that program now, it would be found unconstitutional by the courts. This is a real deadline, and we have to meet it. We have to focus specifically on protecting these DACA recipients. I think Republicans, Democrats, and the President all want this. The question is, Are we going to, just over the next couple of weeks, talk about bigger, broader issues that need to be dealt with but have no chance of being part of legislation?

In 2013, I participated in what was called the Gang of 8. We negotiated for 7 straight months nearly every night. We were in Washington. We as Members negotiated—and our staffs did as well—much longer hours and into the

weekends. Then we brought that piece of legislation to the Judiciary Committee, where we debated it for a couple of weeks. I think we amended it more than 100 times. Then we brought it to the House floor for another couple of weeks and amended it several more times before passing it by a vote of 68 to 32. That was a long process—hard-fought compromises in that legislation. To suggest that we can go through a similar effort in the next couple of weeks—it simply isn't going to happen. The list the White House brought forward is simply something that we ought to consider for comprehensive reform but not for this specific fix.

With regard to the border itself, we all know that we need additional infrastructure on the border. I represent Arizona. We have some 375 miles of border. Some of the border has good barriers in terms of fences. The closest thing we have approximating a wall is these old landing strips from World War II that we put on their end and cemented in. They are opaque. You can't really see through them. We have them in a number of the communities along the border. We have been taking them out because they are not very effective and putting fences in place of them because we need to have visibility to the other side of the border.

Most of what the President is talking about along the southern border is a fence. We do need more fences. In the Gang of 8 bill, I think we authorized 700 miles of additional and improved fencing. Nobody is suggesting we don't need additional infrastructure or barriers on the border. The question is, How much do we provide for it in this legislation?

The President has made a request in the budget for about \$1.6 billion for the coming year. I think that will result in about 74 miles of fence between Texas and California. I think that is a good place to start. How much we authorize going forward will be very much in debate.

I know that during the campaign, the President talked long and hard about building a wall, but every time he mentioned building a wall, he talked about Mexico paying for it. We all know—and many of us knew at the time—Mexico was not going to pay for that wall. They are not. That is why the President is asking for \$18 billion of U.S. taxpayer money to fund that wall. To suggest that the President hasn't changed his position and that we are dealing with a proposal that we have known was coming from the White House simply isn't true. It has changed. The President initially said that Mexico would pay for it. That is not the case. The U.S. taxpayers are going to pay for any infrastructure on the border. That is as it should be. If we are putting up the border fence, we ought to pay for it. To suggest that nobody has changed their position is simply not true.

Deals like this where you need 60 votes necessarily involve compromise.

No party, no individual is going to get everything they want. The White House will not get everything they want. The Democrats in Congress will not, and neither will the Republicans. This will be a compromise.

I am simply suggesting tonight—let's get real about the time involved between now and when we have to fix this and not think that we can simply kick the can down the road and put in some temporary fix, some kind of bridge later that will protect these kids. Those protections will run out on March 5 and may be done at that point. Let's get serious. Let's all get serious, Republicans and Democrats, and not come to the table with unrealistic expectations about what can be done and what can be part of this legislation. Let's have something that we can put on the Senate floor by the end of the month to leave sufficient time to get this fixed by March 5. I hope we can all work together on this, Republicans and Democrats.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise to talk about another matter that will be before us in the days ahead. It should not be before us as it should have been done many months ago. In fact, if you want to count it by days, it should have been done about 100 days ago, as we have heard. That is the Children's Health Insurance Program, known by the acronym CHIP.

Most Americans know what the CHIP program is. It is a program that became Federal law a little more than 20 years ago in order to provide an opportunity for healthcare for those families whose incomes were a little bit too high, maybe, to have their children enrolled in Medicaid but those families did not have their children's healthcare paid for by their employers. You had a lot of families—a lot of middle-income families or families near middle income—who were caught in between and didn't have opportunities for healthcare. So CHIP was passed. For the most part, it was bipartisan. All of these years now—decades later—it remains bipartisan, but it is not reauthorized. Probably, the only two numbers I will get into tonight are 9 and 180. What do I mean by that? I will start with Pennsylvania.

So "180" means 180,000. That is the number of children, roughly, who were enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program as of December of 2017. If you look at it over the course of a year—of children becoming eligible and then maybe moving off of CHIP to some other insurance or having other changes—in Pennsylvania, roughly, in the last year, 340,000 children benefited, at one time or another, but the monthly number was 180,000 children just in

Pennsylvania, and “9” was representative of the 9 million children across the country who were enrolled in CHIP. When we have all of these debates about what has to get done in the next couple of days and between now and the middle part of January, I hope that 9 million number will be uppermost in people’s minds. Included within that are 180,000 children in Pennsylvania.

This is really not about a number or a program. It is about real people, real people’s lives. Every Member of the Senate has a constituent he could tell a story about or hundreds, if not thousands, of stories. I will just tell one tonight about a mom whom I met not too long ago, just about a week ago, Jennie Sheeks. Jennie is from Upper Makefield, PA. That is Bucks County, Southeastern Pennsylvania, just north of the city of Philadelphia.

Jennie told us about her son Kam-au. Kam-au is 8 years old, and he is enrolled in the Children’s Health Insurance Program. His brother and his sister have special needs and are Medicaid beneficiaries. So, in one family, you have an example of one child, thankfully, benefiting from the CHIP program and then two other members of that same family benefiting either from CHIP or the Medicaid Program. Thank goodness those programs are in place. Without CHIP and Medicaid, Jennie said her children would be uninsured because, even though both Jennie and her husband work full time, covering the whole family on her plan is too expensive.

This is another example of working families who depend upon these programs for their children. They need these programs. These programs aren’t theoretical. They aren’t some far-off Washington debate about timing and leverage and negotiations and back-and-forth. This is about their real lives right now. As I said, the CHIP program should have been reauthorized 100 days ago, and it is inexcusable that it is not being done now.

We all left here right after the tax vote. Everybody went back to his home State and, I am sure, had a great holiday season. Unfortunately, even though there was a little bit of a patch—a tiny, little patch made for this program—a lot of people left here with no worries at all and went back to their States and communities and neighborhoods, where there were a lot of other people worrying about whether they were going to get the kind of coverage for their children they should have a right to expect.

Back to Jennie and her son. What are they going to do without the Children’s Health Insurance Program? I cannot imagine—and few Senators or House Members can imagine—how Jennie and her son will get from here to there without having the Children’s Health Insurance Program. I cannot imagine what it must be like for Jennie to worry about how she will pay for her son’s care if he loses CHIP coverage. No parent should have that kind of stress

in his life when there is an existing program that covers 9 million kids that should be reauthorized.

When he was a public official, my father used to talk about people who had led lives of real struggle. We have all known them in our lives—people who have to work every day just to make ends meet in order to provide for their families and get through another day, another week, another month, another pay period. He used to refer to those Americans as leading “quietly triumphant lives.” My father’s words for those who struggle—“quietly triumphant lives.”

There are a lot of families out there who lead very difficult lives, and they depend sometimes on the Children’s Health Insurance Program or Medicaid or some other program just to get through another week, and I think about Jennie and parents like her who have to overcome so much to help their children—to love them, to care for them, to protect them, and to educate them. Even the most loving, caring, hard-working, and dedicated parent cannot provide the protections and the care health insurance coverage and quality healthcare can provide, the kind of quality healthcare from professionals that comes to that child because he or she has the protection of health insurance. Those parents—no matter how much they work, no matter how good they are to their children—sometimes cannot provide something as basic, obviously, as healthcare and, of course, the insurance coverage that makes it possible.

We have legislation ready today, the KIDS Act, that is bipartisan. It has already moved through the Finance Committee unanimously. I don’t think there was a single vote against it. If there was, it was not that loud a vote. I hope we can make these children a priority in the coming days, finally, at long last.

There were a lot of deals made in the tax bill, a lot of numbers moved around to get the tax bill done. I understand that is part of any legislation, but if a tax bill can get done in the U.S. Senate, we can certainly have a vote to get the Children’s Health Insurance Program reauthorized now that it is 100 days old.

I see the distinguished majority leader is here so I will wrap up tonight with the words of Jennie’s son Kam-au:

I was happy when I got health insurance because I knew I could go to the doctor if I got hurt or sick. When I didn’t have health insurance, I was a little worried . . . I think we should keep CHIP going so we can stay healthy.

No better words were uttered or spoken about the Children’s Health Insurance Program than Kam-au’s, an 8-year-old, who said CHIP should stay in place so we can stay healthy.

I agree. The American people agree. Let’s get CHIP done.

I yield the floor.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 2:15

p.m. tomorrow, all postcloture time on the Campbell nomination be considered expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Campbell nomination with no intervening action or debate; finally, that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent due to a flight cancellation out of my control when the Senate voted on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 370.

On this vote, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 370.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN, BICENTENNIAL

• Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I am proud to pay special tribute today to the people of Macomb County, MI, who are celebrating their county’s bicentennial this year.

The people of Macomb County symbolize the history, sacrifices, and character of people all across our country who have helped create the American middle class. They represent America’s diverse history of immigrants coming to this country to find the American dream. When it comes to hard work, the people of Macomb County are second to none. The county’s rich history has created a resilient people who put family, faith, and community first in their lives.

Macomb County was founded on January 15, 1818. Located on the shores of Lake St. Clair, the county is named in honor of General Alexander Macomb, a veteran of the War of 1812. The county was the third county founded in Michigan and, today, is Michigan’s third most populous county.

Macomb County is known for its innovation and impressive manufacturing might. It is a backbone of the American automotive industry. Fiat

Chrysler, Ford Motor, and General Motors employ more than 35,000 people and operate 10 facilities in Macomb County. There are more than 1,600 manufacturers in Macomb County employing more than 69,000 individuals. I am so proud to represent these hard-working Michigan workers.

The county is also an important defense hub for both Michigan and the United States. It is home to Selfridge Air National Guard Base, which was established in 1917 and, today, is home to operations of all branches of the U.S. military, as well as several Department of Homeland Security agencies. In the 10 years immediately following September 11, 2001, approximately 3,816 Michigan Air National Guard airmen from Selfridge deployed to locations around the world. Macomb County is also home to the Detroit Arsenal, the first ever mass-production tank plant in the United States and a vital part of our Nation's "Arsenal of Democracy" during World War II. The Detroit Arsenal now hosts the headquarters of the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center, called TARDEC, and the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command, or TACOM, Life Cycle Management Command.

Numerous events and celebrations are planned in the county throughout this year to mark this special historical milestone. Congratulations to the people of Macomb County on 200 years of distinguished history. We all look forward to many years of prosperity and success in the years ahead.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Cuccia, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3866. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Sector Key West COTP Zone Post Storm Recovery, Atlantic Ocean, FL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2017-1067)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3867. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Mamala Bay, Oahu, HI" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0982)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3868. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Savannah River, Savannah, GA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0977)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3869. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Delaware River, Marcus Hook, NJ" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0935)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3870. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Delaware River, Pipeline Removal, Marcus Hook, PA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2017-1053)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3871. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Humboldt Bay Bar, Eureka, CA, Noyo River Entrance, Ft. Bragg, CA, and Crescent City Harbor Entrance Channel, Crescent City, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0042)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3872. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Atlantic Ocean, Rehoboth Beach, DE" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2017-1028)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3873. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Port of Ponce Turning Basin, Bahia de Ponce, Ponce, PR" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2017-1034)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3874. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; City of Oswego Fireworks Display; Oswego River, Oswego, NY" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0990)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3875. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone, Delaware River; Pipeline Removal" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-

2017-1011)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3876. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Delaware River, Pipeline Removal, Marcus Hook, PA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2017-1053)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3877. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Nanticoke River, Seaford, DE" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0162)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3878. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Reynolds Channel, Lawrence, NY" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0048)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3879. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Lake Washington, Seattle, WA" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0976)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3880. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Upper Mississippi River, IA" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0561)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3881. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Jamaica Bay, Queens, NY" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0595)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3882. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Atlantic Ocean, Ft. Lauderdale, FL" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0552)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3883. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Mavericks Surf Competition, Half Moon Bay, CA" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0427)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3884. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Gulf of Mexico; Englewood, FL" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No.

USCG–2017–0598)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3885. A communication from the Trial Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “System Safety Program” (RIN2130–AC71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3886. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Wireless Telecommunication Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment” (FCC 17–153) (WT Docket No. 17–79)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3887. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Wireless Telecommunication Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Use of Spectrum Bands Above 24 GHz for Mobile Radio Services; Satellite Operations in the 27.5–28.35 GHz and 37.5–40 GHz Bands, etc.” (FCC 17–152) (GN Docket No. 14–177; IB Docket No. 15–256; WT Docket No. 10–112; and IB Docket No. 97–95)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3888. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “2014 Quadrennial Regulatory Review - Review of the Commission’s Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, etc.” (FCC 17–156) (MB Docket No. 14–50; MB Docket No. 09–182; MB Docket No. 07–294; MB Docket No. 04–256; and MB Docket No. 17–289)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3889. A communication from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Bridging the Digital Divide for Low-Income Consumers; Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization; and Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service and Support” (RIN3060–AF85) (FCC 17–155)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3890. A communication from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment” (FCC 17–154) (WC Docket No. 17–84)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3891. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “2-Propenoic acid, 2-methyl-, dodecyl ester, polymer with 1-ethenyl-2-pyrrolidinone and a-(2-methyl-1-oxo-2-propen-1-yl)-w-methoxypoly(oxy-1,2-ethanediyl); Tolerance Exemption” (FRL No. 9970–94) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the

Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3892. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Phenylethyl acetate; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 9970–03) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3893. A communication from the Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Inflation Catch-Up Adjustments of Civil Monetary Penalty Amounts” (RIN0510–AA04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3894. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), performing the duties of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the mobilizations of selected reserve units, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2018; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3895. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “TRICARE; Reimbursement of Long Term Care Hospitals and Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities” (RIN0720–AB47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2018; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3896. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an Inventory of Contracted Services; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3897. A communication from the Acting Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “The Consumer Credit Card Market”; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3898. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3899. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3900. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Financial Stability Oversight Council 2017 annual report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3901. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursu-

ant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Community Reinvestment Act Regulations” (RIN3064–AE58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 3, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3902. A communication from the Acting Director for Legislative Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Report of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau on College Credit Cards; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3903. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Industry and Security Annual Report for fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3904. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Magnitsky Act Sanctions Regulations” (31 CFR Part 584) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3905. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revisions, Clarifications, and Technical Corrections to the Export Administration Regulations” (RIN0694–AH31) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3906. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Emergency Mergers—Chartering and Field of Membership” (RIN3133–AE76) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3907. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, 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; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3908. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans that was declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3909. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Reserve Bank Capital Stock” (RIN7100–AE68) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3910. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Rules Regarding Availability of Information” (RIN7100–AE65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3911. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal

Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans Exemption Threshold" (RIN7100-AD87) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3912. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Truth in Lending (Regulation Z)" (RIN3170-AA67) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3913. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Consumer Leasing (Regulation M)" (RIN3170-AA66) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3914. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Addition of Certain Entities to the Entity List" (RIN0694-AG29) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3915. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Community Reinvestment Act Regulations" (RIN7100-AE84) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3916. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Home Mortgage Disclosure (Regulation C) Adjustment to Asset-Size Exemption Threshold" (12 CFR Part 1003) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3917. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z) Adjustment to Asset-Size Exemption Threshold" (12 CFR Part 1026) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

*Mark L. Greenblatt, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Export-Import Bank.

*Margaret Weichert, of Georgia, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to

respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2282. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to modify venue requirements relating to bankruptcy proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 292

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 292, a bill to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 552

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 552, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act and the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to provide justice to victims of fraud.

S. 774

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 774, a bill to address the psychological, developmental, social, and emotional needs of children, youth, and families who have experienced trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 1520

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1520, a bill to expand recreational fishing opportunities through enhanced marine fishery conservation and management, and for other purposes.

S. 1674

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1674, a bill to provide grants for the repair, renovation, and construction of public elementary schools and secondary schools, to establish a school infrastructure bond program, and for other purposes.

S. 1693

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1693, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that section 230 of that Act does not prohibit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of Federal and State criminal and civil law relating to sex trafficking.

S. 1873

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1873, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program to establish peer specialists in patient aligned care teams at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2009

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2009, a bill to require a background check for every firearm sale.

S. 2032

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2032, a bill to make certain footwear eligible for duty-free treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes.

S. 2144

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2144, a bill to provide a process for granting lawful permanent resident status to aliens from certain countries who meet specified eligibility requirements.

S. 2152

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2152, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for assistance for victims of child pornography, and for other purposes.

S. 2236

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2236, a bill to require covered discrimination and covered harassment awareness and prevention training for Members, officers, employees, interns, fellows, and detailees of Congress within 30 days of employment and annually thereafter, to require a biennial climate survey of Congress, to amend the enforcement process under the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights for covered discrimination and covered harassment complaints, and for other purposes.

S. 2271

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2271, a bill to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act.

S. 2272

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2272, a bill to amend the Revised Statutes to grant State attorneys general the ability to issue

subpoenas to investigate suspected violations of State laws that are applicable to national banks.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2282. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to modify venue requirements relating to bankruptcy proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2282

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 “Bankruptcy Venue Reform Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) bankruptcy law provides a number of venue options for filing bankruptcy under chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code, including place of incorporation, principal place of business and assets, or where an affiliate has filed a case under chapter 11;

(2) the wide range of permissible bankruptcy venue options has led to an increase in companies filing for bankruptcy outside of their home States, or the district in which their principal place of business or principal assets are located, a practice known as forum shopping, and has resulted in a concentration of bankruptcy cases in a few districts;

(3) bankruptcy forum shopping prevents small businesses, employees, retirees, creditors, and other important stakeholders from fully participating in bankruptcy cases that will have tremendous impacts on their lives, communities, and local economies, and deprives district courts of the United States of the opportunity to contribute to the development of bankruptcy law in their jurisdictions; and

(4) reducing forum shopping and manipulation in the bankruptcy system will strengthen the integrity, build public confidence, and ensure fairness in the bankruptcy system.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to prevent the practice of forum shopping in cases filed under chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code.

SEC. 3. VENUE OF CASES UNDER TITLE 11.

Title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking section 1408 and inserting the following:

“§ 1408. Venue of cases under title 11

“(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘principal place of business’ means, with respect to a person or entity that is subject to the reporting requirements of section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m, 78o(d)), the address of the principal executive office of the person or entity as stated in the last annual report filed under that Act prior to the commencement of a case under title 11 by the person or entity, unless another address is shown to be the principal place of business by clear and convincing evidence.

“(b) VENUE.—Except as provided in section 1410, a case under title 11 may be commenced only in the district court for the district—

“(1) in which the domicile, residence, or principal assets in the United States of an individual who is the subject of the case have been located for the 180 days immediately preceding such commencement, or for a longer portion of the 180-day period than the domicile, residence, or principal assets in the United States of the individual were located in any other district;

“(2) in which the principal assets or principal place of business in the United States of a person or entity, other than an individual, that is the subject of the case have been located for the 180 days immediately preceding the commencement, or for a longer portion of the 180-day period than the principal place of business or principal assets in the United States of the person or entity were located in any other district; or

“(3) in which there is already pending a case under title 11 concerning an affiliate that directly or indirectly owns, controls, is the general partner, or holds 50 percent or more of the outstanding voting securities, of the person or entity that is the subject of the later filed case if the pending case was properly filed in that district under this section.

“(c) LIMITATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (b), no effect shall be given to a change in the ownership or control of a person or entity that is the subject of the case or its affiliate, or to a transfer of the principal assets or principal place of business of a person or entity that is the subject of the case or its affiliate to another district, that takes place—

“(A) within 1 year before the date on which the case is commenced; or

“(B) for the purpose of establishing venue.

“(2) PRINCIPAL ASSETS.—For the purposes of subsection (b)(2) and paragraph (1) of this subsection, principal assets do not include cash or cash equivalents.

“(d) BURDEN.—The person or entity that commences a case under title 11 shall bear the burden of establishing by clear and convincing evidence that venue is proper under this section.”; and

(2) by striking section 1412 and inserting the following:

“§ 1412. Change of venue

“Notwithstanding that a case or proceeding under title 11 is filed in the correct division or district, a district court may nevertheless transfer a case or proceeding under title 11 to a district court for another district or division, in the interest of justice or for the convenience of the parties. If a case or proceeding under title 11 is filed in the wrong division or district, the district court shall transfer, dismiss the case or proceeding, or, if it be in the interest of justice, transfer the case or proceeding under title 11 to any district or division in which it could have been brought. The court shall enter an order on any objection to or request to change venue of a case or proceeding under title 11 not later than 14 days after the filing of such objection or request.”.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1869. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. WICKER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1425, to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1869. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. WICKER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1425, to reauthorize the Inte-

grated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 58, strike lines 1 through 4 and insert the following:

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce \$40,200,000, for each of the fiscal years 2018 through 2021, which shall be used—

(1) to fulfill the purposes set forth in section 12302 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3601); and

(2) to support activities identified in the annual coordinated National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System budget developed by the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee and submitted to Congress.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have a request for one committee to meet during today’s session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, January 8, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Margaret Weichert, of Georgia, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget, and Mark L. Greenblatt, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Export-Import Bank.

RAISE FAMILY CAREGIVERS ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3759 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3759) to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a Family Caregiving Strategy, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the bill?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 3759) was passed.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COORDINATED OCEAN MONITORING AND RESEARCH ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 265, S. 1425.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1425) to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Coordinated Ocean Monitoring and Research Act”.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Purposes.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.
- Sec. 4. Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System.
- Sec. 5. Financing and agreements.
- Sec. 6. Reports to Congress.
- Sec. 7. Public-private use policy.
- Sec. 8. Repeal of independent cost estimate.
- Sec. 9. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 10. Reports and research plans.
- Sec. 11. Strategic research plan.
- Sec. 12. Stakeholder input on monitoring.
- Sec. 13. Research activities.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

Section 12302 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3601) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 12302. PURPOSES.

“The purposes of this subtitle are—

“(1) to establish and sustain a national integrated System of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observing systems, comprised of Federal and non-Federal components coordinated at the national level by the Council and at the regional level by a network of regional coastal observing systems, and that includes in situ, remote, and other coastal and ocean observation and modeling capabilities, technologies, data management systems, communication systems, and product development systems, and is designed to address regional and national needs for ocean and coastal information, to gather specific data on key coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes variables, and to ensure timely and sustained dissemination and availability of these data—

“(A) to the public;

“(B) to support national defense, search and rescue operations, marine commerce, navigation safety, weather, climate, and marine forecasting, energy siting and production, economic development, ecosystem-based marine, coastal, and Great Lakes resource management, public safety, and public outreach and education;

“(C) to promote greater public awareness and stewardship of the Nation’s ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources and the general public welfare;

“(D) to provide easy access to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes data and promote data sharing

between Federal and non-Federal sources and promote public data sharing;

“(E) to enable advances in scientific understanding to support the sustainable use, conservation, management, and understanding of healthy ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources; and

“(F) to monitor and model changes in ocean chemistry;

“(2) to improve the Nation’s capability to measure, track, observe, understand, and predict events related directly and indirectly to weather and climate change, natural climate variability, and interactions between the oceanic and atmospheric environments, including the Great Lakes; and

“(3) to authorize activities—

“(A) to promote basic and applied research to develop, test, and deploy innovations and improvements in coastal and ocean observation technologies, including advanced observing technologies needed to address critical data gaps, modeling systems, other scientific and technological capabilities to improve the understanding of weather and climate, ocean-atmosphere dynamics, global climate change, and the physical, chemical, and biological dynamics of the ocean, coastal and Great Lakes environments; and

“(B) to conserve healthy and restore degraded coastal ecosystems.”.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

Section 12303 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3602) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking “integrated into the System and are managed through States, regional organizations, universities, nongovernmental organizations, or the private sector” and inserting “managed through States, regional organizations, universities, nongovernmental organizations, or the private sector and integrated into the system by the regional coastal ocean observing system, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or the agencies on the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee”;

(2) by amending paragraph (6) to read as follows:

“(6) **REGIONAL COASTAL OBSERVING SYSTEM.**—The term ‘regional coastal observing system’ means an organizational body that is certified or established by contract or memorandum by the lead Federal agency designated in section 12304(c)(3) and coordinates State, Federal, local, tribal, and private interests at a regional level with the responsibility of engaging the private and public sectors in designing, operating, and improving regional coastal and ocean observing systems in order to ensure the provision of data and information that meet the needs of user groups from the respective regions.”; and

(3) in paragraph (7), by striking “National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration” and inserting “Administrator”.

SEC. 4. INTEGRATED COASTAL AND OCEAN OBSERVATION SYSTEM.

(a) **SYSTEM ELEMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 12304(b) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3603(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to fulfill the purposes of this subtitle, the System shall be national in scope and consist of—

“(A) Federal assets to fulfill national and international observation missions and priorities;

“(B) non-Federal assets, including a network of regional coastal observing systems identified under subsection (c)(4), to fulfill regional and national observation missions and priorities;

“(C) data management, communication, and modeling systems for the timely integration and dissemination of data and information products from the System;

“(D) a product development system to transform observations into products in a format that may be readily used and understood; and

“(E) a research and development program conducted under the guidance of the Council, consisting of—

“(i) basic and applied research and technology development—

“(I) to improve understanding of coastal and ocean systems and their relationships to human activities; and

“(II) to ensure improvement of operational assets and products, including related infrastructure, observing technologies, and information and data processing and management technologies;

“(ii) an advanced observing technology development program to fill gaps in technology;

“(iii) large scale computing resources and research to advance modeling of coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes processes;

“(iv) models to improve regional weather forecasting capabilities and regional weather forecasting products; and

“(v) reviews of data collection procedures across regions and programs to make recommendations for data collection standards across the System to meet national ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observation, applied research, and weather forecasting needs.”.

(2) **AVAILABILITY OF DATA.**—Section 12304(b)(3) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3603(b)(3)) is amended by inserting “for research and for use in the development of products to address societal needs” before the period at the end.

(3) **COORDINATION OF NON-FEDERAL ASSETS.**—Section 12304(b)(4) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3603(b)) is amended—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “NON-FEDERAL” and inserting “COORDINATION OF NON-FEDERAL”; and

(B) by striking “or by” and inserting “, the regional coastal observing system, or”.

(b) **POLICY OVERSIGHT, ADMINISTRATION, AND REGIONAL COORDINATION.**—Section 12304(c) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3603(c)) is amended by striking paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), and inserting the following:

“(2) **INTERAGENCY OCEAN OBSERVATION COMMITTEE.**—

“(A) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Council shall establish or designate a committee, which shall be known as the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee.

“(B) **DUTIES.**—The Interagency Ocean Observation Committee shall—

“(i) prepare annual and long-term plans for consideration and approval by the Council for the integrated design, operation, maintenance, enhancement, and expansion of the System to meet the objectives of this chapter and the System Plan;

“(ii) develop and transmit to Congress, along with the budget submitted by the President to Congress pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, an annual coordinated, comprehensive budget—

“(I) to operate all elements of the System identified in subsection (b); and

“(II) to ensure continuity of data streams from Federal and non-Federal assets;

“(iii) establish requirements for observation data variables to be gathered by both Federal and non-Federal assets and identify, in consultation with regional information coordination entities, priorities for System observations;

“(iv) establish and define protocols and standards for System data processing, management, collection, configuration standards, formats, and communication for new and existing assets throughout the Integrated Ocean Observing System network;

“(v) develop contract requirements for each regional coastal observing system—

“(I) to establish eligibility for integration into the System;

“(II) to ensure compliance with all applicable standards and protocols established by the Council; and

“(III) to ensure that regional observations are integrated into the System on a sustained basis;

“(vi) identify gaps in observation coverage or needs for capital improvements of both Federal assets and non-Federal assets;

“(vii) subject to the availability of appropriations, establish through 1 or more participating Federal agencies, in consultation with the System advisory committee established under subsection (d), a competitive matching grant or other programs—

“(I) to promote intramural and extramural research and development of new, innovative, and emerging observation technologies including testing and field trials; and

“(II) to facilitate the migration of new, innovative, and emerging scientific and technological advances from research and development to operational deployment;

“(viii) periodically—

“(I) review the System Plan; and

“(II) submit to the Council such recommendations as the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee may have for improvements to the System Plan;

“(ix) ensure collaboration among Federal agencies participating in the activities of the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee; and

“(x) perform such additional duties as the Council may delegate.

“(3) LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall function as the lead Federal agency for the implementation and administration of the System.

“(B) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Administrator shall consult with the Council, the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, other Federal agencies that maintain portions of the System, and the regional coastal observing systems.

“(C) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Administrator shall—

“(i) establish and operate an Integrated Ocean Observing System Program Office within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—

“(I) that utilizes, to the extent necessary, personnel from member agencies participating on the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee; and

“(II) oversees daily operations and coordination of the System;

“(ii) implement policies, protocols, and standards approved by the Council and delegated by the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee;

“(iii) promulgate program guidelines—

“(I) to certify and integrate regional associations into the System; and

“(II) to provide regional coastal and ocean observation data that meet the needs of user groups from the respective regions;

“(iv) have the authority to enter into and oversee contracts, leases, grants, or cooperative agreements with non-Federal assets, including regional information coordination entities, to support the purposes of this chapter on such terms as the Administrator deems appropriate;

“(v) implement and maintain a merit-based, competitive funding process to support non-Federal assets, including the development and maintenance of a network of regional coastal observing systems, and develop and implement a process for the periodic review and evaluation of the regional associations;

“(vi) provide opportunities for competitive contracts and grants for demonstration projects to design, develop, integrate, deploy, maintain, and support components of the System;

“(vii) establish and maintain efficient and effective administrative procedures for the timely allocation of funds among contractors, grantees, and non-Federal assets, including regional associations;

“(viii) develop and implement a process for the periodic review and evaluation of the regional coastal observing systems;

“(ix) formulate an annual process by which gaps in observation coverage or needs for capital improvements of Federal assets and non-Federal assets of the System are—

“(I) identified by the regional associations described in the System Plan, the Administrator, or other members of the System; and

“(II) submitted to the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee;

“(x) develop and be responsible for a data management and communication system, in accordance with standards and protocols established by the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, by which all data collected by the System regarding ocean and coastal waters of the United States including the Great Lakes, are processed, stored, integrated, and made available to all end-user communities;

“(xi) not less frequently than once each year, submit to the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee a report on the accomplishments, operational needs, and performance of the System to contribute to the annual and long-term plans prepared pursuant to paragraph (2)(B)(i);

“(xii) develop and periodically update a plan to efficiently integrate into the System new, innovative, or emerging technologies that have been demonstrated to be useful to the System and which will fulfill the purposes of this chapter and the System Plan; and

“(xiii) work with users and Regional Associations to develop products to enable real-time data sharing for decision makers, including with respect to weather forecasting and modeling, search and rescue operations, corrosive seawater forecasts, water quality monitoring and communication, and harmful algal bloom forecasting.

“(4) REGIONAL COASTAL OBSERVING SYSTEMS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A regional coastal observing system operated by a Regional Association described in the System Plan may not be certified or established under this subtitle unless it—

“(i) has been or shall be certified or established by contract or agreement by the Administrator;

“(ii) meets—

“(I) the certification standards and compliance procedure guidelines issued by the Administrator; and

“(II) the information needs of user groups in the region while adhering to national standards;

“(iii) demonstrates an organizational structure, that under funding limitations is capable of—

“(I) gathering required System observation data;

“(II) supporting and integrating all aspects of coastal and ocean observing and information programs within a region; and

“(III) reflecting the needs of State, local, and tribal governments, commercial interests, and other users and beneficiaries of the System and other requirements specified under this subtitle and the System Plan;

“(iv) identifies—

“(I) gaps in observation coverage needs for capital improvements of Federal assets and non-Federal assets of the System; and

“(II) other recommendations to assist in the development of the annual and long-term plans prepared pursuant to paragraph (2)(B)(i) and transmits such information to the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee via the Program Office established under paragraph (3)(C)(i);

“(v) develops and operates under a strategic operational plan that will ensure the efficient and effective administration of programs and assets to support daily data observations for integration into the System, pursuant to the standards approved by the Council;

“(vi) works cooperatively with governmental and nongovernmental entities at all levels to identify and provide information products of the System for multiple users within the service area of the regional coastal observing system; and

“(vii) complies with all financial oversight requirements established by the Administrator, including requirements relating to audits.

“(B) PARTICIPATION.—For the purposes of this title, employees of Federal agencies are permitted to be members of the governing body for the regional coastal observing systems and may participate in the functions of the regional information coordination entities.”

(c) SYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Section 12304(d) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3603(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “or the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee.” and inserting “or the Council under this subtitle”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “, data sharing,” after “data management”; and

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

(C) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

“(D) additional priorities, including—

“(i) a national surface current mapping network designed to improve fine scale sea surface mapping using high frequency radar technology and other emerging technologies to address national priorities, including Coast Guard search and rescue operation planning and harmful algal bloom forecasting and detection that—

“(I) is comprised of existing high frequency radar and other sea surface current mapping infrastructure operated by national programs and regional associations;

“(II) incorporates new high frequency radar assets or other fine scale sea surface mapping technology assets, and other assets needed to fill gaps in coverage on United States coastlines; and

“(III) follows a deployment plan that prioritizes closing gaps in high frequency radar infrastructure in the United States, starting with areas demonstrating significant sea surface current data needs, especially in areas where additional data will improve Coast Guard search and rescue models;

“(ii) fleet acquisition for autonomous underwater and surface vehicles for deployment and data integration to fulfill the purposes of this Act;

“(iii) an integrative survey program for application of manned and unmanned vehicles to the real-time or near real-time collection and transmission of sea floor, water column, and sea surface data on biology, chemistry, geology, physics, and hydrography;

“(iv) remote sensing and data assimilation to develop new analytical methodologies to assimilate data from the Integrated Ocean Observing System into hydrodynamic models;

“(v) integrated, multi-State monitoring to assess sources, movement, and fate of sediments in coastal regions;

“(vi) a multi-region marine sound monitoring system to be—

“(I) planned in consultation with the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of the Navy, and academic research institutions; and

“(II) developed, installed, and operated in coordination with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of the Navy, and academic research institutions; and

“(E) any other purpose identified by the Administrator or the Council.”;

(D) in paragraph (3)(B), by inserting “The Administrator may stagger the terms of the System advisory committee members.” before “Members”; and

(E) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “Observing” and inserting “Observation”.

(d) CIVIL LIABILITY.—Section 12304(e) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3603(e)) is amended—

(1) by striking “information coordination entity” and inserting “coastal observing system”; and

(2) by striking “non-Federal asset or regional information coordination entity,” and inserting “regional coastal observing system.”

SEC. 5. FINANCING AND AGREEMENTS.

Section 12305(a) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3604(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) *IN GENERAL*.—To carry out activities under this subtitle, the Secretary of Commerce may execute an agreement, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, with any State or subdivision thereof, any Federal agency, any public or private organization, or any individual to carry out activities under this subtitle.”

SEC. 6. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Section 12307 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3606) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 12307. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

“(a) *REQUIREMENT*.—Not later than 2 years after March 30, 2009, and every 3 years thereafter, the Administrator shall prepare, and the President acting through the Council shall approve and transmit to the Congress, a report on progress made in implementing this subtitle.

“(b) *CONTENTS*.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include—

“(1) a description of activities carried out under this subtitle and the System Plan;

“(2) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the System, including an evaluation of progress made by the Council to achieve the goals identified under the System Plan;

“(3) the identification of Federal and non-Federal assets as determined by the Council that have been integrated into the System, including assets essential to the gathering of required observation data variables necessary to meet the respective missions of Council agencies;

“(4) a review of procurements, planned or initiated, by each Council agency to enhance, expand, or modernize the observation capabilities and data products provided by the System, including data management and communication subsystems;

“(5) a summary of the existing gaps in observation infrastructure and monitoring data collection, including—

“(A) priorities considered by the System advisory committee;

“(B) the national sea surface current mapping network;

“(C) coastal buoys;

“(D) ocean chemistry monitoring;

“(E) marine sound monitoring; and

“(F) autonomous underwater and surface vehicle technology gaps;

“(6) an assessment regarding activities to integrate Federal and non-Federal assets, nationally and on the regional level, and discussion of the performance and effectiveness of regional information coordination entities to coordinate regional observation operations;

“(7) a description of benefits of the program to users of data products resulting from the System (including the general public, industries, scientists, resource managers, emergency responders, policy makers, and educators);

“(8) recommendations concerning—

“(A) modifications to the System; and

“(B) funding levels for the System in subsequent fiscal years; and

“(9) the results of a periodic external independent programmatic audit of the System.”

SEC. 7. PUBLIC-PRIVATE USE POLICY.

Section 12308 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3607) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 12308. PUBLIC-PRIVATE USE POLICY.

“The Council shall maintain a policy that defines processes for making decisions about the roles of the Federal Government, the States, regional information coordination entities, the

academic community, and the private sector in providing to end-user communities environmental information, products, technologies, and services related to the System. The Administrator shall ensure that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration adheres to the decision making process developed by the Council regarding the roles of the Federal Government, the States, the regional coastal observing systems, the academic communities, and the private sector in providing the end-user communities environmental information, data products, technologies, and services related to the System.”

SEC. 8. REPEAL OF INDEPENDENT COST ESTIMATE.

(a) *IN GENERAL*.—The Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) is amended by striking section 12309 (33 U.S.C. 3608).

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT*.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 991) is amended by striking the item related to section 12309.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 12311 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3610) is amended by striking “2013” and inserting “2019”.

SEC. 10. REPORTS AND RESEARCH PLANS.

Section 12404(c) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3703(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) *ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY REPORT*.—

“(A) *IN GENERAL*.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Coordinated Ocean Monitoring and Research Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Subcommittee shall transmit to appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

“(i) is named ‘The Ocean Chemistry Coastal Community Vulnerability Assessment’;

“(ii) identifies gaps in ocean acidification monitoring by public, academic, and private assets in the network of regional coastal observing systems;

“(iii) identifies geographic areas which have gaps in ocean acidification research;

“(iv) identifies United States coastal communities, including fishing communities, low-population rural communities, tribal and subsistence communities, and island communities, that may be impacted by ocean acidification;

“(v) identifies impacts of changing ocean carbonate chemistry on the communities described in clause (iv), including impacts from changes in ocean and coastal marine resources that are not managed by the Federal Government;

“(vi) identifies gaps in understanding of the impacts of ocean acidification on economically or commercially important species, particularly those which support United States commercial, recreational, and tribal fisheries and aquaculture;

“(vii) identifies habitats that may be particularly vulnerable to corrosive sea water, including areas experiencing multiple stressors such as hypoxia, sedimentation, and harmful algal blooms;

“(viii) identifies areas in which existing Integrated Ocean Observing System assets, including buoys and gliders, may be leveraged as platforms for the deployment of new sensors or other applicable observing technologies; and

“(ix) is written in collaboration with the agencies responsible for carrying out this Act.

“(B) *FORM OF REPORT*.—

“(i) *INITIAL REPORT*.—The initial report required under subparagraph (A) shall include the information described in clauses (i) through (ix) on a national level.

“(ii) *SUBSEQUENT REPORTS*.—Each report required under subparagraph (A) after the initial report—

“(I) may describe the information described in clauses (i) through (ix) on a national level; or

“(II) may consist of separate reports for each region of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(iii) *REGIONAL REPORTS*.—If the Subcommittee opts to prepare a report required under subparagraph (A) as separate regional reports under clause (ii)(II), the Subcommittee shall submit a report for each region of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration not less frequently than once during each 5-year reporting period.

“(C) *APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED*.—In this paragraph and in paragraph (5), the term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

“(5) *MONITORING PRIORITIZATION PLAN*.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the submission of the initial report under paragraph (4)(A), the Subcommittee shall transmit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that develops a plan to deploy new sensors or other applicable observing technologies—

“(A) based on such initial report;

“(B) prioritized by—

“(i) the threat to coastal economies and ecosystems;

“(ii) gaps in data; and

“(iii) research needs; and

“(C) that leverage existing platforms, where possible.”

SEC. 11. STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN.

(a) *CONTENTS*.—Section 12405(b) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3704(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (9), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(10) make recommendations for research to be conducted, including in the social sciences and economics, to address the key knowledge gaps identified in the economic vulnerability report conducted under section 12404(c)(4).”

(b) *PROGRAM ELEMENTS*.—Section 12405(c) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3704(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6) Research to understand combined effects of changes in ocean chemistry, sediment delivery, hypoxia, and harmful algal blooms and the impact these processes have on each other, and how these multiple stressors impact living marine resources and coastal ecosystems.

“(7) Applied research to identify adaptation strategies for species impacted by changes in ocean chemistry including vegetation-based systems, shell recycling, species and genetic diversity, applied technologies, aquaculture methodologies, and management recommendations.”

SEC. 12. STAKEHOLDER INPUT ON MONITORING.

Section 12406(a) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3705(a)) is amended—

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

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

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) includes an ongoing mechanism that allows potentially affected industry members, coastal stakeholders, fishery management councils and commissions, non-Federal resource managers, and scientific experts to provide input on monitoring needs that are necessary to support on the ground management, decision making, and adaptation related to ocean acidification.”

SEC. 13. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.

Section 12407(a) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3706(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall continue to carry out research activities on ocean acidification which shall support competitive, merit-based, peer-reviewed proposals for research, observatories and monitoring of ocean acidification and its impacts, including—

“(1) impacts on marine organisms and marine ecosystems;

“(2) impacts on ocean, coastal, and estuarine biogeochemistry;

“(3) the development of methodologies and technologies to evaluate ocean acidification and its impacts; and

“(4) impacts of multiple stressors on ecosystems exhibiting hypoxia, harmful algal blooms, or sediment delivery, combined with changes in ocean chemistry.”

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Wicker amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to, the committee-reported substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1869) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To authorize an annual appropriation of \$40,200,000 through fiscal year 2021 to carry out the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.)

On page 58, strike lines 1 through 4 and insert the following:

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce \$40,200,000, for each of the fiscal years 2018 through 2021, which shall be used—

(1) to fulfill the purposes set forth in section 12302 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3601); and

(2) to support activities identified in the annual coordinated National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System budget developed by the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee and submitted to Congress.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1425), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1425

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Coordinated Ocean Monitoring and Research Act”.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Purposes.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.
- Sec. 4. Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System.
- Sec. 5. Financing and agreements.
- Sec. 6. Reports to Congress.
- Sec. 7. Public-private use policy.
- Sec. 8. Repeal of independent cost estimate.
- Sec. 9. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 10. Reports and research plans.
- Sec. 11. Strategic research plan.

Sec. 12. Stakeholder input on monitoring.

Sec. 13. Research activities.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

Section 12302 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3601) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 12302. PURPOSES.

“The purposes of this subtitle are—

“(1) to establish and sustain a national integrated System of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observing systems, comprised of Federal and non-Federal components coordinated at the national level by the Council and at the regional level by a network of regional coastal observing systems, and that includes in situ, remote, and other coastal and ocean observation and modeling capabilities, technologies, data management systems, communication systems, and product development systems, and is designed to address regional and national needs for ocean and coastal information, to gather specific data on key coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes variables, and to ensure timely and sustained dissemination and availability of these data—

“(A) to the public;

“(B) to support national defense, search and rescue operations, marine commerce, navigation safety, weather, climate, and marine forecasting, energy siting and production, economic development, ecosystem-based marine, coastal, and Great Lakes resource management, public safety, and public outreach and education;

“(C) to promote greater public awareness and stewardship of the Nation’s ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources and the general public welfare;

“(D) to provide easy access to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes data and promote data sharing between Federal and non-Federal sources and promote public data sharing;

“(E) to enable advances in scientific understanding to support the sustainable use, conservation, management, and understanding of healthy ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources; and

“(F) to monitor and model changes in ocean chemistry;

“(2) to improve the Nation’s capability to measure, track, observe, understand, and predict events related directly and indirectly to weather and climate change, natural climate variability, and interactions between the oceanic and atmospheric environments, including the Great Lakes; and

“(3) to authorize activities—

“(A) to promote basic and applied research to develop, test, and deploy innovations and improvements in coastal and ocean observation technologies, including advanced observing technologies needed to address critical data gaps, modeling systems, other scientific and technological capabilities to improve the understanding of weather and climate, ocean-atmosphere dynamics, global climate change, and the physical, chemical, and biological dynamics of the ocean, coastal and Great Lakes environments; and

“(B) to conserve healthy and restore degraded coastal ecosystems.”

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

Section 12303 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3602) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking “integrated into the System and are managed through States, regional organizations, universities, nongovernmental organizations, or the private sector” and inserting “managed through States, regional organizations, universities, nongovernmental organizations, or the private sector and integrated into the system by the regional coastal ocean observing system, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or the agencies on

the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee”;

(2) by amending paragraph (6) to read as follows:

“(6) REGIONAL COASTAL OBSERVING SYSTEM.—The term ‘regional coastal observing system’ means an organizational body that is certified or established by contract or memorandum by the lead Federal agency designated in section 12304(c)(3) and coordinates State, Federal, local, tribal, and private interests at a regional level with the responsibility of engaging the private and public sectors in designing, operating, and improving regional coastal and ocean observing systems in order to ensure the provision of data and information that meet the needs of user groups from the respective regions.”; and

(3) in paragraph (7), by striking “National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration” and inserting “Administrator”.

SEC. 4. INTEGRATED COASTAL AND OCEAN OBSERVATION SYSTEM.

(a) SYSTEM ELEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 12304(b) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3603(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to fulfill the purposes of this subtitle, the System shall be national in scope and consist of—

“(A) Federal assets to fulfill national and international observation missions and priorities;

“(B) non-Federal assets, including a network of regional coastal observing systems identified under subsection (c)(4), to fulfill regional and national observation missions and priorities;

“(C) data management, communication, and modeling systems for the timely integration and dissemination of data and information products from the System;

“(D) a product development system to transform observations into products in a format that may be readily used and understood; and

“(E) a research and development program conducted under the guidance of the Council, consisting of—

“(i) basic and applied research and technology development—

“(I) to improve understanding of coastal and ocean systems and their relationships to human activities; and

“(II) to ensure improvement of operational assets and products, including related infrastructure, observing technologies, and information and data processing and management technologies;

“(ii) an advanced observing technology development program to fill gaps in technology;

“(iii) large scale computing resources and research to advance modeling of coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes processes;

“(iv) models to improve regional weather forecasting capabilities and regional weather forecasting products; and

“(v) reviews of data collection procedures across regions and programs to make recommendations for data collection standards across the System to meet national ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observation, applied research, and weather forecasting needs.”

(2) AVAILABILITY OF DATA.—Section 12304(b)(3) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3603(b)(3)) is amended by inserting “for research and for use in the development of products to address societal needs” before the period at the end.

(3) COORDINATION OF NON-FEDERAL ASSETS.—Section 12304(b)(4) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3603(b)) is amended—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “NON-FEDERAL” and inserting “COORDINATION OF NON-FEDERAL”; and

(B) by striking “or by” and inserting “, the regional coastal observing system, or”.

(b) POLICY OVERSIGHT, ADMINISTRATION, AND REGIONAL COORDINATION.—Section 12304(c) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3603(c)) is amended by striking paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), and inserting the following:

“(2) INTERAGENCY OCEAN OBSERVATION COMMITTEE.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Council shall establish or designate a committee, which shall be known as the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee.

“(B) DUTIES.—The Interagency Ocean Observation Committee shall—

“(i) prepare annual and long-term plans for consideration and approval by the Council for the integrated design, operation, maintenance, enhancement, and expansion of the System to meet the objectives of this chapter and the System Plan;

“(ii) develop and transmit to Congress, along with the budget submitted by the President to Congress pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, an annual coordinated, comprehensive budget—

“(I) to operate all elements of the System identified in subsection (b); and

“(II) to ensure continuity of data streams from Federal and non-Federal assets;

“(iii) establish requirements for observation data variables to be gathered by both Federal and non-Federal assets and identify, in consultation with regional information coordination entities, priorities for System observations;

“(iv) establish and define protocols and standards for System data processing, management, collection, configuration standards, formats, and communication for new and existing assets throughout the Integrated Ocean Observing System network;

“(v) develop contract requirements for each regional coastal observing system—

“(I) to establish eligibility for integration into the System;

“(II) to ensure compliance with all applicable standards and protocols established by the Council; and

“(III) to ensure that regional observations are integrated into the System on a sustained basis;

“(vi) identify gaps in observation coverage or needs for capital improvements of both Federal assets and non-Federal assets;

“(vii) subject to the availability of appropriations, establish through 1 or more participating Federal agencies, in consultation with the System advisory committee established under subsection (d), a competitive matching grant or other programs—

“(I) to promote intramural and extramural research and development of new, innovative, and emerging observation technologies including testing and field trials; and

“(II) to facilitate the migration of new, innovative, and emerging scientific and technological advances from research and development to operational deployment;

“(viii) periodically—

“(I) review the System Plan; and

“(II) submit to the Council such recommendations as the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee may have for improvements to the System Plan;

“(ix) ensure collaboration among Federal agencies participating in the activities of the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee; and

“(x) perform such additional duties as the Council may delegate.

“(3) LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall func-

tion as the lead Federal agency for the implementation and administration of the System.

“(B) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Administrator shall consult with the Council, the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, other Federal agencies that maintain portions of the System, and the regional coastal observing systems.

“(C) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Administrator shall—

“(i) establish and operate an Integrated Ocean Observing System Program Office within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—

“(I) that utilizes, to the extent necessary, personnel from member agencies participating on the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee; and

“(II) oversees daily operations and coordination of the System;

“(ii) implement policies, protocols, and standards approved by the Council and delegated by the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee;

“(iii) promulgate program guidelines—

“(I) to certify and integrate regional associations into the System; and

“(II) to provide regional coastal and ocean observation data that meet the needs of user groups from the respective regions;

“(iv) have the authority to enter into and oversee contracts, leases, grants, or cooperative agreements with non-Federal assets, including regional information coordination entities, to support the purposes of this chapter on such terms as the Administrator deems appropriate;

“(v) implement and maintain a merit-based, competitive funding process to support non-Federal assets, including the development and maintenance of a network of regional coastal observing systems, and develop and implement a process for the periodic review and evaluation of the regional associations;

“(vi) provide opportunities for competitive contracts and grants for demonstration projects to design, develop, integrate, deploy, maintain, and support components of the System;

“(vii) establish and maintain efficient and effective administrative procedures for the timely allocation of funds among contractors, grantees, and non-Federal assets, including regional associations;

“(viii) develop and implement a process for the periodic review and evaluation of the regional coastal observing systems;

“(ix) formulate an annual process by which gaps in observation coverage or needs for capital improvements of Federal assets and non-Federal assets of the System are—

“(I) identified by the regional associations described in the System Plan, the Administrator, or other members of the System; and

“(II) submitted to the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee;

“(x) develop and be responsible for a data management and communication system, in accordance with standards and protocols established by the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, by which all data collected by the System regarding ocean and coastal waters of the United States including the Great Lakes, are processed, stored, integrated, and made available to all end-user communities;

“(xi) not less frequently than once each year, submit to the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee a report on the accomplishments, operational needs, and performance of the System to contribute to the annual and long-term plans prepared pursuant to paragraph (2)(B)(i);

“(xii) develop and periodically update a plan to efficiently integrate into the System

new, innovative, or emerging technologies that have been demonstrated to be useful to the System and which will fulfill the purposes of this chapter and the System Plan; and

“(xiii) work with users and Regional Associations to develop products to enable real-time data sharing for decision makers, including with respect to weather forecasting and modeling, search and rescue operations, corrosive seawater forecasts, water quality monitoring and communication, and harmful algal bloom forecasting.

“(4) REGIONAL COASTAL OBSERVING SYSTEMS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A regional coastal observing system operated by a Regional Association described in the System Plan may not be certified or established under this subtitle unless it—

“(i) has been or shall be certified or established by contract or agreement by the Administrator;

“(ii) meets—

“(I) the certification standards and compliance procedure guidelines issued by the Administrator; and

“(II) the information needs of user groups in the region while adhering to national standards;

“(iii) demonstrates an organizational structure, that under funding limitations is capable of—

“(I) gathering required System observation data;

“(II) supporting and integrating all aspects of coastal and ocean observing and information programs within a region; and

“(III) reflecting the needs of State, local, and tribal governments, commercial interests, and other users and beneficiaries of the System and other requirements specified under this subtitle and the System Plan;

“(iv) identifies—

“(I) gaps in observation coverage needs for capital improvements of Federal assets and non-Federal assets of the System; and

“(II) other recommendations to assist in the development of the annual and long-term plans prepared pursuant to paragraph (2)(B)(i) and transmits such information to the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee via the Program Office established under paragraph (3)(C)(i);

“(v) develops and operates under a strategic operational plan that will ensure the efficient and effective administration of programs and assets to support daily data observations for integration into the System, pursuant to the standards approved by the Council;

“(vi) works cooperatively with governmental and nongovernmental entities at all levels to identify and provide information products of the System for multiple users within the service area of the regional coastal observing system; and

“(vii) complies with all financial oversight requirements established by the Administrator, including requirements relating to audits.

“(B) PARTICIPATION.—For the purposes of this title, employees of Federal agencies are permitted to be members of the governing body for the regional coastal observing systems and may participate in the functions of the regional information coordination entities.”

(c) SYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Section 12304(d) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3603(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “or the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee.” and inserting “or the Council under this subtitle”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “, data sharing,” after “data management”;

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

(C) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

“(D) additional priorities, including—

“(i) a national surface current mapping network designed to improve fine scale sea surface mapping using high frequency radar technology and other emerging technologies to address national priorities, including Coast Guard search and rescue operation planning and harmful algal bloom forecasting and detection that—

“(I) is comprised of existing high frequency radar and other sea surface current mapping infrastructure operated by national programs and regional associations;

“(II) incorporates new high frequency radar assets or other fine scale sea surface mapping technology assets, and other assets needed to fill gaps in coverage on United States coastlines; and

“(III) follows a deployment plan that prioritizes closing gaps in high frequency radar infrastructure in the United States, starting with areas demonstrating significant sea surface current data needs, especially in areas where additional data will improve Coast Guard search and rescue models;

“(ii) fleet acquisition for autonomous underwater and surface vehicles for deployment and data integration to fulfill the purposes of this Act;

“(iii) an integrative survey program for application of manned and unmanned vehicles to the real-time or near real-time collection and transmission of sea floor, water column, and sea surface data on biology, chemistry, geology, physics, and hydrography;

“(iv) remote sensing and data assimilation to develop new analytical methodologies to assimilate data from the Integrated Ocean Observing System into hydrodynamic models;

“(v) integrated, multi-State monitoring to assess sources, movement, and fate of sediments in coastal regions;

“(vi) a multi-region marine sound monitoring system to be—

“(I) planned in consultation with the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of the Navy, and academic research institutions; and

“(II) developed, installed, and operated in coordination with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of the Navy, and academic research institutions; and

“(E) any other purpose identified by the Administrator or the Council.”;

(D) in paragraph (3)(B), by inserting “The Administrator may stagger the terms of the System advisory committee members.” before “Members”; and

(E) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “Observing” and inserting “Observation”.

(d) CIVIL LIABILITY.—Section 12304(e) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3603(e)) is amended—

(1) by striking “information coordination entity” and inserting “coastal observing system”; and

(2) by striking “non-Federal asset or regional information coordination entity,” and inserting “regional coastal observing system.”.

SEC. 5. FINANCING AND AGREEMENTS.

Section 12305(a) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009

(33 U.S.C. 3604(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out activities under this subtitle, the Secretary of Commerce may execute an agreement, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, with any State or subdivision thereof, any Federal agency, any public or private organization, or any individual to carry out activities under this subtitle.”.

SEC. 6. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Section 12307 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3606) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 12307. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

“(a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 2 years after March 30, 2009, and every 3 years thereafter, the Administrator shall prepare, and the President acting through the Council shall approve and transmit to the Congress, a report on progress made in implementing this subtitle.

“(b) CONTENTS.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include—

“(1) a description of activities carried out under this subtitle and the System Plan;

“(2) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the System, including an evaluation of progress made by the Council to achieve the goals identified under the System Plan;

“(3) the identification of Federal and non-Federal assets as determined by the Council that have been integrated into the System, including assets essential to the gathering of required observation data variables necessary to meet the respective missions of Council agencies;

“(4) a review of procurements, planned or initiated, by each Council agency to enhance, expand, or modernize the observation capabilities and data products provided by the System, including data management and communication subsystems;

“(5) a summary of the existing gaps in observation infrastructure and monitoring data collection, including—

“(A) priorities considered by the System advisory committee;

“(B) the national sea surface current mapping network;

“(C) coastal buoys;

“(D) ocean chemistry monitoring;

“(E) marine sound monitoring; and

“(F) autonomous underwater and surface vehicle technology gaps;

“(6) an assessment regarding activities to integrate Federal and non-Federal assets, nationally and on the regional level, and discussion of the performance and effectiveness of regional information coordination entities to coordinate regional observation operations;

“(7) a description of benefits of the program to users of data products resulting from the System (including the general public, industries, scientists, resource managers, emergency responders, policy makers, and educators);

“(8) recommendations concerning—

“(A) modifications to the System; and

“(B) funding levels for the System in subsequent fiscal years; and

“(9) the results of a periodic external independent programmatic audit of the System.”.

SEC. 7. PUBLIC-PRIVATE USE POLICY.

Section 12308 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3607) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 12308. PUBLIC-PRIVATE USE POLICY.

“The Council shall maintain a policy that defines processes for making decisions about the roles of the Federal Government, the States, regional information coordination entities, the academic community, and the private sector in providing to end-user communities environmental information, prod-

ucts, technologies, and services related to the System. The Administrator shall ensure that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration adheres to the decision making process developed by the Council regarding the roles of the Federal Government, the States, the regional coastal observing systems, the academic communities, and the private sector in providing the end-user communities environmental information, data products, technologies, and services related to the System.”.

SEC. 8. REPEAL OF INDEPENDENT COST ESTIMATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) is amended by striking section 12309 (33 U.S.C. 3608).

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11; 123 Stat. 991) is amended by striking the item related to section 12309.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce \$40,200,000, for each of the fiscal years 2018 through 2021, which shall be used—

(1) to fulfill the purposes set forth in section 12302 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3601); and

(2) to support activities identified in the annual coordinated National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System budget developed by the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee and submitted to Congress.

SEC. 10. REPORTS AND RESEARCH PLANS.

Section 12404(c) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3703(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY REPORT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Coordinated Ocean Monitoring and Research Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Subcommittee shall transmit to appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

“(i) is named ‘The Ocean Chemistry Coastal Community Vulnerability Assessment’;

“(ii) identifies gaps in ocean acidification monitoring by public, academic, and private assets in the network of regional coastal observing systems;

“(iii) identifies geographic areas which have gaps in ocean acidification research;

“(iv) identifies United States coastal communities, including fishing communities, low-population rural communities, tribal and subsistence communities, and island communities, that may be impacted by ocean acidification;

“(v) identifies impacts of changing ocean carbonate chemistry on the communities described in clause (iv), including impacts from changes in ocean and coastal marine resources that are not managed by the Federal Government;

“(vi) identifies gaps in understanding of the impacts of ocean acidification on economically or commercially important species, particularly those which support United States commercial, recreational, and tribal fisheries and aquaculture;

“(vii) identifies habitats that may be particularly vulnerable to corrosive sea water, including areas experiencing multiple stressors such as hypoxia, sedimentation, and harmful algal blooms;

“(viii) identifies areas in which existing Integrated Ocean Observing System assets, including buoys and gliders, may be leveraged as platforms for the deployment of new sensors or other applicable observing technologies; and

“(ix) is written in collaboration with the agencies responsible for carrying out this Act.

“(B) FORM OF REPORT.—

“(i) INITIAL REPORT.—The initial report required under subparagraph (A) shall include the information described in clauses (i) through (ix) on a national level.

“(ii) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—Each report required under subparagraph (A) after the initial report—

“(I) may describe the information described in clauses (i) through (ix) on a national level; or

“(II) may consist of separate reports for each region of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(iii) REGIONAL REPORTS.—If the Subcommittee opts to prepare a report required under subparagraph (A) as separate regional reports under clause (ii)(II), the Subcommittee shall submit a report for each region of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration not less frequently than once during each 5-year reporting period.

“(C) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this paragraph and in paragraph (5), the term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

“(5) MONITORING PRIORITIZATION PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the submission of the initial report under paragraph (4)(A), the Subcommittee shall transmit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that develops a plan to deploy new sensors or other applicable observing technologies—

“(A) based on such initial report;

“(B) prioritized by—

“(i) the threat to coastal economies and ecosystems;

“(ii) gaps in data; and

“(iii) research needs; and

“(C) that leverage existing platforms, where possible.”.

SEC. 11. STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN.

(a) CONTENTS.—Section 12405(b) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3704(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (9), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(10) make recommendations for research to be conducted, including in the social sciences and economics, to address the key knowledge gaps identified in the economic vulnerability report conducted under section 12404(c)(4).”.

(b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—Section 12405(c) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3704(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6) Research to understand combined effects of changes in ocean chemistry, sediment delivery, hypoxia, and harmful algal blooms and the impact these processes have on each other, and how these multiple stressors impact living marine resources and coastal ecosystems.

“(7) Applied research to identify adaptation strategies for species impacted by changes in ocean chemistry including vegetation-based systems, shell recycling, species and genetic diversity, applied technologies, aquaculture methodologies, and management recommendations.”.

SEC. 12. STAKEHOLDER INPUT ON MONITORING.

Section 12406(a) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3705(a)) is amended—

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

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

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) includes an ongoing mechanism that allows potentially affected industry members, coastal stakeholders, fishery management councils and commissions, non-Federal resource managers, and scientific experts to provide input on monitoring needs that are necessary to support on the ground management, decision making, and adaptation related to ocean acidification.”.

SEC. 13. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.

Section 12407(a) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3706(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall continue to carry out research activities on ocean acidification which shall support competitive, merit-based, peer-reviewed proposals for research, observatories and monitoring of ocean acidification and its impacts, including—

“(1) impacts on marine organisms and marine ecosystems;

“(2) impacts on ocean, coastal, and estuarine biogeochemistry;

“(3) the development of methodologies and technologies to evaluate ocean acidification and its impacts; and

“(4) impacts of multiple stressors on ecosystems exhibiting hypoxia, harmful algal blooms, or sediment delivery, combined with changes in ocean chemistry.”.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, January 9; 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 proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Campbell nomination; further, that all time during adjournment, recess, morning business, and leader remarks count postclosure on the Campbell nomination; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator MERKLEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, 100 days is a significant period of time—significant, particularly, because it involves the health of our children, which has been neglected over the last 3 months plus. How is it that this Chamber managed to go more than 3 months and not get in place a permanent expansion or a 5-year expansion of healthcare for our Nation's children?

Well, I can tell you why. It is because my colleagues on the majority side of the aisle here in this Chamber had a different bill that they were immersed in and that was a healthcare bill that would be better termed a health destruction bill because it would have wiped out healthcare for somewhere between 20 and 30 million Americans, and eventually version No. 5 of that bill died here in the Senate.

Then my colleagues across the aisle said: Well, we have another beautiful idea. We are going to do a tax bill that will deliver trillions of dollars to the richest Americans. Well, our Constitution was crafted around the vision of government of, by, and for the people, but my colleagues across the aisle like a different version of governance. They like governance by and for the powerful and the privileged.

So here they have this tax bill, and this tax bill has provisions like eliminating the dynasty loophole so wealthy families can pass their dynasty inheritances from one generation to the next without ever paying capital gains. They had a provision that they wanted to change the tax brackets for the wealthiest Americans. They wanted to have corporations, which have paid a smaller and smaller and smaller share of the costs of the infrastructure and the healthcare and the education of America, to pay even less. They had a provision where passthrough corporations would get a sweetheart rate. If you add up these provisions, they total over \$3 trillion. Now, not all of it goes to the wealthiest 1 percent, but most of it does, and most of it goes to the wealthiest 10 percent.

Let's just take and only count two-thirds of that \$2 trillion. Now, let's think about that number. That is a number that we really can't imagine. How many grains of sand are on this beach? You just can't get your hands around that kind of money—\$2 trillion to the richest Americans. So let's divide it by the number of American men, women, and children in our country, and what do you end up with? You end up with the fact that that bill that

my colleagues across the aisle were so insistent on passing delivers the equivalent of \$6,000 for every man, woman, and child in America to the very richest Americans.

This bill was not about delivering benefits to the richest Americans. This bill was not about delivering benefits to the privileged. This bill was not about making the powerful more powerful. This bill was about children, and so it got set aside, one day after another after another, and we are at 100 days and counting.

Now, who are these children? These are the children of families who are the working America. They don't qualify for Medicaid—in Oregon that is the Oregon Health Plan—because they are doing a little bit better than that, but not well enough to afford regular insurance in America. These are the children of the working poor.

Now, not so long ago, we had a Presidential campaign, and President Trump campaigned on helping working families. But where was President Trump? President Trump was all immersed in the same tax bill for the privileged and the powerful, and he didn't say anything about trying to make this happen for our children of working families.

This bill, by the way, began 21 years ago. This program, the Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, was forged in bipartisanship. This bill was the product of Senator Ted Kennedy and Senator ORRIN HATCH, working together to say that we shouldn't allow children of low-income families to go without healthcare. Why is that? Well, because they knew it profoundly affects the quality of life of that child. We want to invest in those children. We want them to be successful. We want them to have strong futures. We don't want them to go without doctor's visits when they are sick. We don't want them to go without vaccinations and contract terrible illnesses. We don't want them to go without dental care and have their teeth destroyed even before they reach adulthood. No, we are going to take care of those children.

This bill was forged in bipartisanship back when both sides of the aisle seemed to care about the vision of government of, by, and for the people, but that vision has been disappearing. There is probably no better symbol of that than this session and the leadership of this body being obsessed with benefits for the best off while ignoring this bill for our children.

Now, it hasn't been completely ignored. The Finance Committee has acted. There is a bill called the KIDS Act, or the Keep Kids' Insurance Dependable and Secure Act. Once again, Senator HATCH was right in the middle of this, partnering with Senator WYDEN from Oregon. Again, it is bipartisanship at the committee level. They passed it out, and they passed it out unanimously, but we don't see the KIDS Act getting passed here on the floor of the Senate.

So let's change course. Let's try to remember that this Nation was founded on the vision of distributed power among the citizens so that it will continue to make decisions by and for the people, not by and for the best off in our society. Let's try to reclaim that vision, and let's start by passing this bipartisan bill, forged in bipartisanship and passed out of the Finance Committee in bipartisanship. Let's get it to the floor, and let's pass it now. Let's not let this 100 days become 105 or 110 or 130. Let's get it passed now.

Now, in the continuing resolution there was a little short patch that said: Well, we are going to make sure the States that are running out of money right now for a couple of months will not go under. This is not the type of bill that we should have for a few weeks or a couple months. Quite frankly, I heard lots of folks on this floor saying that they were so excited about this tax rip-off to give money to the powerful because the powerful need predictability, they need stability, and they need to know what the tax rules are a long time into the future. Well, struggling families would like to have some stability, not have their children be a bargaining chip in some broader vision of securing even more benefits for the powerful at the expense of working Americans.

Let's put aside that vision of using our kids as a bargaining chip and pass this bill and get it to the President's desk.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:25 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, January 9, 2018, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SAMUEL DALE BROWNBACK, OF KANSAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, VICE DAVID NATHAN SAPERSTEIN.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

KEVIN FAHEY, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE KATHARINA G. MCFARLAND.

WILLIAM ROPER, OF GEORGIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE, VICE WILLIAM A. LAPLANTE, JR., RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ANNE MARIE WHITE, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT), VICE MONICA C. REGALBUTO.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PHYLLIS L. BAYER, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, VICE DENNIS V. MCGINN. ALEX A. BEEHLER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, VICE KATHERINE HAMMACK.

CHARLES DOUGLAS STIMSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY, VICE PAUL LUIS OOSTBURG SANZ.

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

MARVIN GOODFRIEND, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FED-

ERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR A TERM OF FOURTEEN YEARS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2016, VICE SARAH BLOOM RASKIN, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

ROBERT HUNTER KURTZ, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE SANDRA BROOKS HENRIQUEZ, RESIGNED.

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

JELENA MCWILLIAMS, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS, VICE JEREMIAH O'HEAR NORTON, RESIGNED.

JELENA MCWILLIAMS, OF OHIO, TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE MARTIN J. GRUENBERG, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

BRIAN D. MONTGOMERY, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE CAROL J. GALANTE.

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

JEROME H. POWELL, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JANET L. YELLEN, TERM EXPIRING.

RANDAL QUARLES, OF COLORADO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR A TERM OF FOURTEEN YEARS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2018. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

DAVID J. RYDER, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE EDMUND C. MOY, RESIGNED.

FINANCIAL STABILITY OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

THOMAS E. WORKMAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FINANCIAL STABILITY OVERSIGHT COUNCIL FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS, VICE S. ROY WOODALL, JR., TERM EXPIRED.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

JEFFREY DEWIT, OF ARIZONA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION, VICE DAVID RADZANOWSKI.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

DANA BAIOTTO, OF OHIO, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM OCTOBER 27, 2017, VICE MARIETTA S. ROBINSON, TERM EXPIRED.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

JAMES BRIDENSTINE, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION, VICE CHARLES F. BOLDEN, JR., RESIGNED.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

ANN MARIE BUERKLE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM OCTOBER 27, 2018. (REAPPOINTMENT)

ANN MARIE BUERKLE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION, VICE ELLIOT F. KAYE.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

BRENDAN CARR, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS FROM JULY 1, 2018. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIANA FURCHTGOTT-ROTH, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION. (NEW POSITION)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BARRY LEE MYERS, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR OCEANS AND ATMOSPHERE, VICE KATHRYN D. SULLIVAN, RESIGNED.

AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LEON A. WESTMORELAND, OF GEORGIA, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS. (NEW POSITION)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SUSAN COMBS, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, VICE RHEA S. SUH, RESIGNED.

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

STEVEN GARDNER, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT, VICE JOSEPH G. PIZARCHIK.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

RYAN DOUGLAS NELSON, OF IDAHO, TO BE SOLICITOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, VICE HILARY CHANDLER TOMPKINS.

DAVID P. SHEEHAN

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR:

MARC CLAYTON GILKEY, OF CALIFORNIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, AS A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

DEANNA M. J. AYALA, OF MINNESOTA
DARYA CHEHREZAD, OF CALIFORNIA
MORGAN A. PERKINS, OF MARYLAND
STANLEY STOREY PHILLIPS, OF MONTANA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE TO BE A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, A CONSULAR OFFICER AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

MARK A. MYERS, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO BE A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, A CONSULAR OFFICER, AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

ALYCE S. AHN, OF CALIFORNIA
EHSAN A. ALBAZIZ, OF WASHINGTON
NAOMI ANSMAN, OF NEW YORK
NICHOLAS D. AUSTIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CAROLINA M. BAKER, OF FLORIDA
JOHN T. BELMEAR, OF TEXAS
CHARLES MATTHEW BENNETT, OF FLORIDA
HARRY J. BETHKE, OF VIRGINIA
ANDREW R. BYRLEY, OF FLORIDA
NICOLE L. CALLRAM, OF ARIZONA
ALTHEA CAWLEY-MURPHY, OF WASHINGTON
ANTHONY CHANG, OF NEVADA
TERESA CHANG, OF CALIFORNIA
RONGJIE CHEN, OF SOUTH DAKOTA
NATHAN D. CROOK, OF VIRGINIA
MONICA L. DAVIS, OF TEXAS
MERRICA C. DOMINICK, OF MONTANA
MATTHEW P. DORR, OF VIRGINIA
CLAIRE E. DUFFETT-THOMAS, OF NEW YORK
HADY T. ELNEIL, OF CALIFORNIA
THANIEL L. FARRAR, OF FLORIDA
ROSS A. FELDMANN, OF FLORIDA
RYAN E. FLOYD, OF FLORIDA
ERIC R. FREDERICK, OF ARIZONA
DNIELLA GAYAPERSAD-CHAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

JEANNE E. GEERS, OF VIRGINIA
CHRISTOPHER D. GOOCH, OF UTAH
ABIGAIL S. GREENWALD, OF MINNESOTA
YOUNG M. HAN, OF CALIFORNIA
SARAH C. HENNESSEY, OF GEORGIA
ERIKA HOLLNER, OF FLORIDA
TODD R. HUGHES, OF FLORIDA
DAVID SCOTT HUTCHINSON, JR., OF UTAH
JOSEPH M. JONES, OF NEVADA
TYLER B. JOYNER, OF TEXAS
GENEVIEVE JUDSON JOURDAIN, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
ANGELA YOUNG KENNEDY, OF TEXAS
DEBORAH A. KERSHNER, OF COLORADO
VANESSA D. KHALIFA STOTTS, OF TEXAS
SADAF KHAN, OF TEXAS
JACQUELINE KINGFIELD, OF MARYLAND
WILSON M. KOROL, OF NEVADA
JOSEPH M. KRAFT, OF CALIFORNIA
FRANCIS C. LANNING, OF NEW MEXICO
TIME THEIS LANNING, OF FLORIDA
KARL W. LOHSE, OF CALIFORNIA
ABEL T. LOMAX, OF MINNESOTA
ANDREW A. LOOMIS, OF TEXAS
LARIAN M. LOPEZ, OF WASHINGTON
DARIEN BATZER LUCE, OF CALIFORNIA
STACY K. MACCORCKLE, OF OREGON
DAVID W. MAURO, OF TEXAS

KATHLEEN M. MAXWELL, OF NEW YORK
MATTHEW R. MAYBERRY, OF VIRGINIA
JOSHUA I. MERTSCH, OF MASSACHUSETTS
REBECCA H. MOLINOFF, OF FLORIDA
MARIA L. MORENO, OF WASHINGTON
PATRICK R. MURPHY, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
ERICA L. NELSON, OF VIRGINIA
DAVID L. NEWTON, OF ALABAMA
DANIEL T. NIBARGER, OF VIRGINIA
ANDREW JOHN OSORNO, OF FLORIDA
MORTON S. PARK, OF NEVADA
SETH C. PEAVEY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JOSHUA A. PEFFLEY, OF MINNESOTA
RYAN J. PESECKAS, OF FLORIDA
SUSAN K. PHEMISTER, OF NEW YORK
MARK S. PITUCH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
RENATO RAMACIOTTI, OF TEXAS
TIMOTHY K. RILEY, OF VIRGINIA
ANDREW J. RIPLEY, OF CALIFORNIA
DAVID K. C. ROBBIE, OF COLORADO
JEFFREY P. SAKURAI, OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DAVID M. SCHNEIDER, OF SOUTH DAKOTA
GOURI SEETHARAM, OF NEW YORK
MICHAEL C. STIEG, OF VIRGINIA
JACK D. SWETLAND, JR., OF LOUISIANA
SHEILA S. TANG-RABBOY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MARY KATHARINE A. TRECHOCK, OF CALIFORNIA
TRAVIS L. TUCKER, OF FLORIDA
CARYL MARIE TUMA, OF PENNSYLVANIA
KONRAD MICHAL TURSKI, OF WASHINGTON
VALERIE M. VASS, OF WASHINGTON
PAULA S. WALKER, OF NORTH CAROLINA

LEIF E. WALLER, OF VIRGINIA
KENNETH KAM MING WAN, OF CALIFORNIA
MATTHEW J. WELSH, OF NEW YORK
BRYN CAIN WEST, OF TEXAS
LINDSEY S. WHITE, OF VIRGINIA
MICHELE D. WOONACOTT, OF NEVADA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO BE A CONSULAR OFFICER AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

PRIYA U. AMIN, OF VIRGINIA
TOR ANDREWS, OF VIRGINIA
REBECCA LESLIE ANDREWS, OF VIRGINIA
HUGO PATRICK ARDAYA, OF VIRGINIA
LESTER ANSONG ASAMOAH, OF OKLAHOMA
DANIEL DAVID BARBEAU, OF VIRGINIA
SONIA BARKAT, OF VIRGINIA
ASHLEY ELIZABETH BARRETT, OF VIRGINIA
MEGAN ELIZABETH BISHOP, OF COLORADO
JAMES CURTIS BLAKE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CAROL ANN BRIZZOLARA, OF VIRGINIA
ROBERT ALAN BURKHAFF, OF VIRGINIA
KRISTA AIDA BUSTAMANTE, OF IDAHO
JUAN ALFONSO CLAR, OF NEW YORK
THOMAS FADDEEN CLUSS III, OF VIRGINIA
COURTNEY ANN CLUTZ, OF VIRGINIA
ROBERT COHEN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
LARRY JAMES COOK, JR., OF VIRGINIA
JASON R. CROSS, OF VIRGINIA
BAILEY HOBBS CULP, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JAMES BANISTER DAVIS, OF VIRGINIA
THOMAS E. DE TRIQUET, OF VIRGINIA
LINDSEY L. DEBORD, OF VIRGINIA
WHITNEY CLARA DIXON, OF MARYLAND
VICTORIA ALYSHA DURGANA, OF NEW JERSEY
YOUSSEF OTHAMED ELKEL, OF VIRGINIA
LAURA PETERSON FEINTECH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

AYANDA NGOZI FRANCIS, OF GEORGIA
MICHELLE LEE GABRIEL, OF VIRGINIA
GARRETT MARTIN GEHRER, OF VIRGINIA
CASSANDRA ARIEL GIANNI, OF TEXAS
MATTHEW IAN GILMORE, OF TEXAS
HALEY C. GINDHART, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ANN GOLOR, OF MARYLAND
MARTIN ROBERT GRAVES, OF VIRGINIA
ALONZO O. GUINYARD, OF TEXAS
SHERIDAN BLAKE GUNDERSON, OF VIRGINIA
LEBRON HARDAWAY, OF VIRGINIA
ALISON JANE HARRISON, OF VIRGINIA
JAMES RUSSELL HARRISON, OF VIRGINIA
MARK A. HARRISON, OF VIRGINIA
TREVIS QUINCY HARROLD, OF MICHIGAN
TARA DEAN HENDRICK, OF TEXAS
RYAN NICHOLAS HOOPER, OF OHIO
SARAH COBB HOPTMAN, OF VIRGINIA
BENJAMIN F. HORNUNG, OF VIRGINIA
KAREN HSU, OF VIRGINIA
ADENA P. JACKSON, OF VIRGINIA
SARANTHA MARIE JACKSON, OF MICHIGAN
ERIC JARRAD JOHNSON, OF VIRGINIA
HEIDI MARIE JOHNSTONE, OF VIRGINIA
MPAZA SICHILIMA KAPEMBWA, OF GEORGIA
SEAN PATRICK KENNETH, OF VIRGINIA
SUSAN KIM, OF VIRGINIA
RAQUEL JACQUELINE KING, OF FLORIDA
RAJIV RAJ LALLA, OF VIRGINIA
MASAKO LAMBDIN, OF VIRGINIA
ADEENA K. LEHMAN, OF FLORIDA
TIFFANY MELISSA CHOW LIDSKY, OF VIRGINIA
SARAH PEG LOMBARDO, OF NEW JERSEY
KAREN ELIZABETH LOUMA, OF VIRGINIA
SHAWN WILLIAM LUDKEKER, OF VIRGINIA
RITCHELL ANULI MADIKABGBU, OF MARYLAND
TRICHEA JANNET MARTINEZ, OF VIRGINIA
PAUL ALEXANDER MCCORD, OF VIRGINIA
BRIAN EDWARD MCDONALD, OF TEXAS
JOHN HOYT MCLAUGHLIN II, OF VIRGINIA
MATTHEW DAVID MELNYK, OF VIRGINIA
AUBERDE MERILAN, OF FLORIDA
HOLLY ANNE MILES, OF TEXAS
JENNIFER MARIE MILLER, OF VIRGINIA
SARAH CHRISTINA MONTGOMERY, OF VIRGINIA
WELDON DANIEL MONTGOMERY, OF FLORIDA
JESSICA ADELE MUNN, OF VIRGINIA
BINTU MARY MUSA, OF GEORGIA
ANNE WANJIKU GERTRUDE MWENDAR, OF WASHINGTON
HILARY C. NEGELE, OF VIRGINIA
KENNETH CHRISTOPHER NEGLEY, OF VIRGINIA
STEPHANIE ELIZABETH NELSON, OF VIRGINIA
RAYMOND RAUL NELSON, OF OHIO
ALENA CHRISTINE NORDHOLM, OF VIRGINIA
ERIC JOHN OLSON, OF VIRGINIA
SARAH NICOLE OSTING, OF MARYLAND
SAMANTHA ELSE OTTEN, OF VIRGINIA
GLORIANNE J. PAJKICH, OF VIRGINIA
DAVID MICHAEL PESEK, OF VIRGINIA
THOMAS FITZGERALD POWERS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

TIFFANY MARIE PSEMENEKI, OF VIRGINIA
KATHARINE FRANCES RAVETZ, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CHRISTINE MARIE REITER, OF KENTUCKY
NICHOLAS J. RICHTER, OF VIRGINIA
CHRISTOPHER WILSON RIZZI, OF VIRGINIA
HAYDEE ROJAS, OF NEVADA
SAHAND SARRAF, OF TEXAS
ALISA KOSHIBA SCHACKMANN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MATTHEW R. SCHAPMAN, OF VIRGINIA
PATRICK C. SCOVILLE, OF VIRGINIA
BRENDAN FRAN SHEA, OF VIRGINIA
SARAH LOIS SHIRLEY, OF VIRGINIA
DANIEL JAMES CAVARLEZ SILBERSTEIN, OF NEW YORK
GREGORY NICKLIN SMITH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

RAMATA SOW, OF MARYLAND
KORY ALEXANDER STRICKLAND, OF TEXAS
REBECCA MARIE SUMMERS, OF VIRGINIA
LACHIESA ANDRES THOMAS, OF VIRGINIA
CAMERON MICHAEL TORREON, OF NEW YORK
KIRA HALEY ULLMAN, OF VIRGINIA
ELVIA VALLE, OF TEXAS
CHRIS J. VAN TASSELL, OF VIRGINIA
GABRIEL MATTHEW WEINSTEIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THERESA A. WELLMAN, OF VIRGINIA
KARALEE DIANE WERNING, OF FLORIDA
STEPHEN SINCLAIR WHALEY, OF OHIO
RICHARD JAMES WHARTON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BRANDI YVETTE WILLIAMS, OF VIRGINIA
MICHAEL EDWARD WITHROW, OF VIRGINIA
KENNETH P. WOOLSEY, OF VIRGINIA
ERIK Z. ZAHNEN, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR:

ANGELA P. AGGELER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PETER H. BARLERIN, OF MARYLAND
COLOMBIA A. BARROSSE, OF VIRGINIA
MARYKAY LOSS CARLSON, OF VIRGINIA
JULIE J. CHUNG, OF CALIFORNIA
KAREN KASKA DAVIDSON, OF TEXAS
KELLY COLLEEN DEGNAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CHAYAN C. DEY, OF FLORIDA
JOHN E. FITZSIMMONS, OF MARYLAND
ERIC ALAN FLOHR, OF FLORIDA
ANTHONY GODFREY, OF VIRGINIA
PETER T. GUERIN, OF NEW MEXICO
LISA KENNEDY HELLER, OF VIRGINIA
NICHOLAS MANNING HILL, OF NEW YORK
J. BAXTER HUNT III, OF VIRGINIA
HENRY V. JARDINE, OF VIRGINIA
LISA A. JOHNSON, OF VIRGINIA
STEVEN C. KOUTSIS, OF MARYLAND
KAMALA SHRIN LAKHDHIR, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
KARIN MELKA LANG, OF VIRGINIA
JEANNE MARIE MALONEY, OF VIRGINIA
ERIN J. MASSINGA, OF WASHINGTON
BRIAN DAVID MCFEETERS, OF VIRGINIA
KAREN E. MUMMAW, OF VIRGINIA
RICHARD CARL PASCHALL III, OF VIRGINIA
LISA J. PETERSON, OF VIRGINIA
JO ANN E. SCANDOLA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MARK TONER, OF MARYLAND
FRANK J. WHITAKER, OF SOUTH CAROLINA
MICHAEL L. YODER, OF VIRGINIA
ANDREW R. YOUNG, OF CALIFORNIA
DAVID J. YOUNG, OF VIRGINIA
STEPHEN ARTHUR YOUNG, OF FLORIDA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, AS A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

BEGZAT BIX ALIU, OF VIRGINIA
ROBERT LLOYD BATCHELDER, OF VIRGINIA
ANDREA RENEE BROUILLETTE-RODRIGUEZ, OF VIRGINIA
RACHEL L. COOKE, OF VIRGINIA
SUSANNAH E. COOPER, OF MARYLAND
JASON RICHARD CUBAS, OF FLORIDA
ABIGAIL LEE DRESSEL, OF CONNECTICUT
MARION JOHNSTON EKPUK, OF VIRGINIA
JILL MARIE ESPOSITO, OF VERMONT
DANIEL J. FENNEL, OF FLORIDA
ERIC VINCENT GAUDIOLI, OF MARYLAND
WILLIAM ROBERT GILL, JR., OF VIRGINIA
RYAN M. GLIHA, OF ARIZONA
DAVID J. GREENE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
KEITH LEE HEFFERN, OF VIRGINIA
ELIZABETH K. HORST, OF MINNESOTA
MARTIN T. KELLY, OF FLORIDA
ANGELA M. KERWIN, OF VIRGINIA
WILLIAM H. KLEIN, OF CALIFORNIA
KIMBERLY KRHOUNEK, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CHRISTOPHER A. LANDBERG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

JOHN DAVID LIPPEATT, OF VIRGINIA
GREGORY DANIEL LOGERPO, OF VIRGINIA
IAN JOSEPH MCCARY, OF NEW YORK
DAVID RAY MCCAWLEY, OF CALIFORNIA
JOHN W. MCINTYRE, OF TEXAS
HEATHER CHRISTINE MERRITT, OF VIRGINIA
MARIO MCGWINN MESQUITA, OF VIRGINIA
MARCUS ROBERT MICHELLI, OF CALIFORNIA
ANDREW THOMAS MILLER, OF VIRGINIA
MARK DAVID MOODY, OF MISSOURI
JOYCE WINCHEL NAMDE, OF VIRGINIA
SCOTT MCCONNIN OUDKIRK, OF VIRGINIA
JONATHAN G. PRATT, OF CALIFORNIA
JOSE KIERAN SANTACANA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JENNIFER L. SAVAGE, OF FLORIDA
WILLIAM STEUER, OF TEXAS
DONN-ALLAN G. TITUS, OF FLORIDA
CHRISTINA TOMLINSON, OF VIRGINIA
JOHN E. WARNER, OF VIRGINIA
KAMI ANN WITMER, OF PENNSYLVANIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, AS A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, AND A CONSULAR OFFICER AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

PAUL AVALLONE, OF FLORIDA
PHILIP KARL BARTH, OF VIRGINIA

WADE L. BOSTON, OF VIRGINIA
DAVID L. DUNCAN, OF UTAH
VIDA M. GECAS, OF VIRGINIA
ROBERT F. GRECH, OF FLORIDA
GLENN E. HARMS, OF VIRGINIA
JOY D. HERRERA-BACA, OF VIRGINIA
TUAN Q. HOANG, OF WASHINGTON
JASON R. KIGHT, OF VIRGINIA

JACQUELINE LEVESQUE, OF VIRGINIA
LUIS A. MATUS, OF VIRGINIA
CHANDA C. MCDANIEL, OF MISSOURI
WILLIAM I. MELLOTT, OF ARIZONA
THAD OSTERHOUT, OF VIRGINIA
MICHAEL C. RANGER, OF VIRGINIA
PAUL L. SCHAEFER, OF VIRGINIA
ROBERT A. SOLOMON, OF PENNSYLVANIA

MARK A. WILSON, OF VIRGINIA
MARI JAIN WOMACK, OF TEXAS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

KATHLEEN TROIA MCFARLAND, OF NEW YORK, TO BE
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC
OF SINGAPORE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MARCUS RASKIN

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Marcus Goodman Raskin, who passed away on December 24, 2017 at the age of 83. He was a committed civil rights advocate, staunch antiwar activist, respected academic, and prolific author.

Born in Milwaukee on April 30, 1934, Mr. Raskin, whose father was a plumber and mother was a seamstress, was a musical prodigy and studied piano at the Julliard School. Nevertheless, he abandoned a musical career to study politics at the University of Chicago and graduated from the University's Law School. He later worked for Robert W. Kastenmeier, a highly respected liberal Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from the State of Wisconsin. Thereafter, he joined the Kennedy Administration as an assistant to National Security Advisor McGeorge Bundy.

Based on this experience, he went on to found, together with Richard J. Barnet, the Institute for Policy Studies, a progressive think tank studying nuclear disarmament, economic inequality, civil rights, and national security. With the advent of the Vietnam War, Mr. Raskin actively opposed the draft and aggressively urged resistance to the war, for which he became the target of law enforcement prosecutors. He played a significant role in facilitating the publication in *The New York Times* of the Pentagon Papers, a comprehensive classified study that exposed the faulty decision-making leading to the United States' entry into the Vietnam War. As a result of his antiwar activism, Mr. Raskin was added to President Richard M. Nixon's notorious "enemies list", along with such other luminaries as journalist Daniel Schorr, movie actor Paul Newman, and various Members of Congress.

Notwithstanding the loss of Mr. Raskin, we are fortunate that his son, Representative JAMIE RASKIN, a Representative from the State of Maryland, currently serves as Vice Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee. In addition, the Committee has benefitted from the outstanding service provided by Maggie Lopatin, his granddaughter, who was the administrative backbone of the Committee for six years.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to commend the life and inspiring achievements of Mr. Raskin and to offer my heartfelt condolences to his loving family.

39TH ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL BREAKFAST

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Dr. King's life and, unfortunately, his untimely death, remind us that we must continually work to secure and protect our freedoms. In his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, Dr. King embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in the citizens of communities throughout our nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. I am honored to rise today to recognize several individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District who will be recognized during the 39th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Saturday, January 13, 2018, at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana. The Gary Frontiers Service Club, which was founded in 1952, sponsors this annual breakfast.

The Gary Frontiers Service Club will pay tribute to local individuals who have for decades selflessly contributed to improving the quality of life for the people of Gary. This year, Earmon Irons will be honored with the prestigious Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award. Additionally, several individuals will be recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marchers at this year's breakfast including Chareice White, Mark Spencer, Roma Ivey, Henry L. Jones, Dharathula Harris, and Dr. Janet Seabrook.

Though very different in nature, the achievements of each of these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and faced them with unwavering strength and determination. Each one of the honored guests' greatness has been found in their willingness to serve with "a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." They set goals and work selflessly to make them a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these honorees, as well as the Gary Frontiers Service Club officers, President Oliver Gilliam, who also served as the MLK Breakfast Chairman, Vice President Charles Jackson, Recording Secretary Linnal Ford, Financial Secretary Melvin Ward, and Treasurer/Seventh District Director Floyd Donaldson, and all members of the service club for their initiative, determination, and dedication to serving the people of Northwest Indiana.

RILETTA L. CREAM

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of the late Riletta L. Cream, a lifelong constituent of New Jersey's First Congressional District who distinguished herself as a devoted educator and public servant.

Born and raised in South Camden, Mrs. Cream would ascend to high-profile leadership positions, earning the admiration and respect of constituents across Southern New Jersey.

After graduating from Camden High School in 1944, Mrs. Cream attended Glassboro State College, now known as Rowan University, and would embark on a remarkable, four-decade career in education, serving as an elementary school teacher, then principal of Pyne Poynt & Camden High Schools in her home City. Mrs. Cream's reputation as a no-nonsense educator led Camden High School through transformative change in her 15 year tenure as principal, and was regarded as a mentor and role model for students, teachers, and administrators alike.

After retiring from Camden High School, Mrs. Cream served as administrator for BPUM, Inc. Day Care Centers, and later as an adjunct professor and supervisor of student teachers at both Rowan and Rutgers Universities.

In 1994, Mrs. Cream was appointed to the Camden County New Jersey Board of Chosen Freeholders. Mrs. Cream earned reelection to that post four times, shepherding critical education-focused projects, including the installation of computers in classrooms, the implementation of distance learning equipment for students and teachers, and expanding Camden County's Library System.

Mrs. Cream was an ardent advocate for continuing education, encouraging and inspiring individuals to pursue academic dreams, and supported those endeavors by writing letters of recommendation for students and establishing scholarships for graduates of Camden's high schools.

On December 18, 2017, Mrs. Cream passed away, and a beacon of promise was dimmed.

Today, a school and library bear Mrs. Cream's name, and stand in tribute to her enduring legacy and are inspiring future generations of students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating the life, contributions, and service of a woman who blazed trails and deserves to be remembered for her selfless service and commitment, from a grateful community, the Honorable Riletta Cream.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

DANCING ANGELS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a poem, on behalf of Albert Carey Caswell, to honor a great American family of faith and courage. On March 6, 2012, CW2 Edward "Duane" Cantrell of the United States Army, a team leader of The Green Berets, with four Purple Hearts, and 6 Tours in the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars died in a house fire while trying to save his two lovely daughters Isabella and Natalia. They all perished together. Left behind in the wake of all of this sorrow and heartache was his wife Louise, who has taken the most horrific of circumstances and created a foundation in remembrance of them and to provide scholarships, and other assistance to help passionate and committed young dancers to fulfill their dreams called "Dancing Angels". She is an inspiration to us all.

Rise

Rise up to heaven with tears in your eyes
Little Sisters who've brought such joy in
their little short lives

As before our Lord you now lie
As so gently he wipes away all of those tears
from your eyes

Don't worry your safe now,
in our Lord's arms you now lie
And your Daddy is right by your side
So hush little girls don't you cry
With your most courageous Mother left on
earth in your name to vie
Who for all of you and us must somehow still
try

For she has so many hearts to heal
And so much inspiration for all of us to feel
To so teach us
To so beseech us

To so show this world what is real
And she has so much more to do
Until, one day she comes up to heaven to be
with you

But, its not yet her time
for our world needs to look upon her warm
hue

So dance,
dance for her and your Daddy and our Lord
up in heaven in view

And she will hear you on the wind
And she will feel you in the morning when
she awakes, as next to her all night
you have been

To help her find the strength, all in what a
heart of courage can mend

As up to heaven on this day
Two little beautiful Angels, Isabella and
Natalia have so made their way

As they begin to dance night and day
As they begin their dance,
which makes our Lord smile and pray

And if you listen closely on the wind,
we can hear their little footsteps my friends
And all of these lessons about life by Louise
time and again

To help all hearts of despair somehow to
mend

And that out of the darkness, light too can
come in

Whenever hearts of courage begin
To against all odds to so fend
Heartache and sorrow my friends

Because, out of such pain and such sorrow,
a new tomorrow from faith deep down within
can begin!

So dance, dance Little Angels,
with but smiles on your face from heaven
you send

And let us remember life is so short, let not
the minutes you waste time and again
So hold your families close
And ever remember what so means the most
And from a distance what now seems like the
very worst

May not be this end,
for isn't it up in heaven where we all wish to
transcend

And that's where all these Dancing Angels
on this day can heard

Dance, Dance, Dance Little Angels,

hush little girls don't you cry

Because, one day up in Heaven you will look
into your Mother's beautiful eyes

When, she comes up to be with you and
Daddy and our Lord on high

So Dance, Dance, and wipe all of those tears
from your eyes

Amen.

HONORING LYNN RANEY

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lynn Raney, who passed away on December 28th. He was a talented artist, a dedicated state worker, an admired teacher, and a respected member of our Central Illinois community.

Lynn found great joy in serving others. I got to know him during his time working in public service for the State of Illinois. There was never a day Lynn did not have a smile on his face, even in the midst of difficult family health tragedies.

As a boy, Lynn was active in the Boy Scouts, achieving honors such as the Eagle Scout, the Silver Beaver, and the Wood Badge. Later in life he was proud to serve as a volunteer, teaching the values of the Boy Scouts to younger generations.

I have no doubt that Lynn will be remembered well for his talent as an artist. Not only did he teach art to high school students, but he was known for the care and creativity he put into his annual Christmas cards. Just before Christmas, I received one of his cards and I will cherish it even more after his passing.

I am proud to honor Lynn today. He left a lasting impact on everyone who knew him. He was a good friend, a devoted husband, and a loving father who will be missed by many. My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

OATH CEREMONY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate thirty individuals who took their oaths of citizenship on Friday, January 5, 2018. This memorable occasion was held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United

States in search of better lives for their families. Oath ceremonies are a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On January 5, 2018, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, took their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Drago Pupac, Branka Pupac, Diep Dinh Do, Asma Aftab, Niranjana Awasthi, Magdalena Anna Skupien, Claudio Eduardo Diaz Ayala, Maria Griselda Rodriguez Diaz, Carmela Velazquez, Florencia Stoll, Susan Pandey Joshi, Mamoon Arif Raza, Jayakumar Chockalingam, Syed Muhammad Aftab, Sergiy Igorovyc Mosendz, Leah Nyokabi Wambui, Heidie Principe Kuskye, Krystyna Zofia Kret, Chiamara Chibueze Ugochukwu Anokwute, Rubinely Calderon, Carlos Cortes, Andrea Gianelli Cunanan, J. Refugio Garcia, Marie Grace Healy, Manuel Herbert Leyva, Ume Ruman Khaja, Maria Marquez, Cristian Alberto Osoria, Amy Hui Ren, and Federico Santamaria.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country ". . . of the people, by the people, and for the people." They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who became citizens of the United States of America on January 5, 2018. They, too, are American citizens, guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BUILD
AMERICA ACT OF 2018**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Build America Act of 2018, legislation that will significantly increase the size and scope of two very successful merit-based infrastructure grant programs without adding a penny to the national debt. Specifically, this legislation would remove the Capital Investment Grant Program (CIG), also known as New Starts/Small Starts, and the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Grant Program (TIGER Grants) from the annual appropriations process, establishing them as mandatory programs with permanent and expanded funding. My bill proposes to increase TIGER funding to \$3 billion

annually, and to increase CIG funding to \$9 billion.

These grants have helped local communities prioritize their own projects; however they have been chronically underfunded in the past. For instance, since 2009, Congress has dedicated nearly \$5.1 billion for eight rounds of TIGER funding, yet the program received \$10.1 billion in applications in FY2015 alone. The process is competitive, and allows the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to reward applicants that exceed eligibility criteria and demonstrate significant non-Federal funding commitments.

By increasing these funding levels and removing the programs from the annual appropriations process, we will take the guesswork and uncertainty out of the programs. This in turn will allow communities around the country to submit funding requests for merit-based awards for projects of national, regional, or metropolitan-area significance. The projects include construction and repair of roads, bridges, and tunnels, the installation of high speed internet, revitalization of drinking water, and the construction and expansion of fixed-guideway public transportation systems, including subways, light rail, commuter rail, and bus rapid transit (BRT).

Mr Speaker, we have talked about prioritizing a large-scale infrastructure package for years. Congressional Democrats recently unveiled a trillion-dollar plan to make these investments and create tens of thousands of jobs. However, like so many other proposals, it was rejected out of hand by the Majority. Despite controlling the House, the Senate, and the White House, the Majority has not yet offered any plan of their own. All the while, the situation continues to grow worse.

Every four years, the American Society of Civil Engineers' issues a "Report Card" for America's Infrastructure. The report depicts the condition and performance of American infrastructure, assigning letter grades based on the physical condition and needed investments for improvement across 16 major infrastructure categories. The most recent report card was issued last year. Among the national rankings, transit systems were rated a D- and roads were rated a D.

- Dams: D.
- Drinking water: D.
- Inland waterways: D.
- Levees: D.

We need to move this process forward. I am therefore proud to offer my own legislation today—not for a massive, all-encompassing infrastructure package—but rather, for a common sense expansion of successful programs based on need and merit. I urge my colleagues to consider it without delay, so that our country can begin making the investments it desperately needs.

CONGRATULATING SUPER-INTENDENT RANDY KING ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, as a member who has the honor of representing the heart of

Mount Rainier National Park, the jewel of the 8th Congressional District and Washington State, I rise today to recognize Superintendent Randy King for his outstanding service to our country, the environment, and the National Park Service and to congratulate him on his retirement on January 2, 2018.

Randy was raised in Michigan and attended Michigan State University, where he developed his love of the outdoors through outdoor excursions with family and friends. After college, he began his accomplished 40-year career with the National Park Service, serving in six national parks including Yellowstone, Acadia, the Intermountain Regional Office, and even an assignment in Australia. In 2003, Randy moved to Mount Rainier National Park to serve as the Deputy Superintendent, including a 15-month detail as Acting Superintendent in 2009 through 2010. Since 2011, Randy has served as the Superintendent of the Mount Rainier National Park.

The challenges of managing the diverse landscape and needs of this park are endless. It includes 235,625 acres of forests, meadows, and mountains, and a National Historic Landmark District. Every year, Mount Rainier is graced with millions of day-hikers, climbers, and outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy the visitor centers, back-country, and summit of the mountain's 14,410 foot summit. With every visit comes inherent dangers from the wild landscape and it was often up to Randy and his team to plan and engage in rescue and recovery efforts. Randy managed all of these challenges with skill and grace.

During his tenure, Randy worked tirelessly to maintain open, honest relationships with surrounding community leaders, businesses, staff, and visitors. He oversaw upgrades to the permitting process, renovations to historical landmarks, improvements to trail and road access, increased stewardship opportunities within the park, and the opening of a memorial to those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for their service to this country. I had the honor of working closely with Randy when we passed legislation to name the Eatonville Post Office after Ranger Margaret E. Anderson who gave her life protecting visitors in the park. As Co-Chair of the National Parks Caucus, Randy and I have worked together on many projects over the years in an effort to strengthen and protect our parks.

Randy is a proven leader whose warmth, kindness, and charismatic leadership is a credit to the National Park Service and will be missed at Mount Rainier. Mr. Speaker, I again offer my congratulations to Superintendent Randy King, for his service and dedication to the community and visitors of the Mount Rainier National Park.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on December 13, 2017 and December 14, 2017, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall votes 676 through 684.

Had I been present for rollcall 676, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 658, providing for consideration of H.R. 1638, the

Iranian Leadership Asset Transparency Act, and providing for consideration of H.R. 4324, the Strengthening Oversight of Iran's Access to Finance Act, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for rollcall 677, on agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 658, Providing for consideration of H.R. 1638, the Iranian Leadership Asset Transparency Act, and providing for consideration of H.R. 4324, the Strengthening Oversight of Iran's Access to Finance Act, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for rollcall 678, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 657, providing for consideration of H.R. 2396, the Privacy Notification Technical Clarifications Act; and providing for consideration of H.R. 4015, the Corporate Governance Reform and Transparency Act of 2017, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for rollcall 679, on agreeing to the resolution on H. Res. 657, providing for consideration of H.R. 2396, the Privacy Notification Technical Clarifications Act; and providing for consideration of H.R. 4015, the Corporate Governance Reform and Transparency Act of 2017, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for rollcall 680, on passage of H.R. 1638, the Iranian Leadership Asset Transparency Act, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for rollcall 681, on motion to recommit with instructions for H.R. 2396, the Privacy Notification Technical Clarification Act, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 682, on passage of H.R. 2396, the Privacy Notification Technical Clarification Act, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for rollcall 683, on motion to recommit with instructions for H.R. 4324, the Strengthening Oversight of Iran's Access to Finance Act, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 684, on passage of H.R. 4324, the Strengthening Oversight of Iran's Access to Finance Act, I would have voted "No."

TRIBUTE TO BONNIE KIND

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Bonnie Kind for over 40 years of civil service. Bonnie began her career with the Social Security Administration as a student trainee. This month she will retire from the Social Security Administration, where she served most recently as the Associate Commissioner for Budget and principal advisor to the Social Security Administration's Chief Financial Officer. Bonnie has provided consistent vigilance and stewardship of SSA's approximately \$1 trillion program budget and \$12 billion administrative budget.

As Budget Officer for the Social Security Administration, Bonnie provides executive leadership and direction to SSA in administering a comprehensive program of budget policy, formulation, presentation, and execution. She is responsible for the financial resources needed to provide for one of our nation's most vital public services—social security payments for more than 60 million people.

Bonnie has worked collaboratively with Congressional staff on details of the Social Security Administration's budget and fostered an environment of open communication. She has excelled at developing relationships. Her knowledge of the budget process and the relationships she has established have helped Congress understand and appreciate the unique aspects of the service provided by the Social Security Administration and scope of the agency's impact, serving millions of Americans and employing more than 60,000 men and women across the nation.

As Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee that oversees the administrative funding for the Social Security Administration, I want to thank Bonnie for her work providing information for Members and staff. Congress depends on the extensive expertise of dedicated public servants like Bonnie. Information from the agency is critical to making decisions—we could not do our work in Congress without the help of people like her.

I want to congratulate Bonnie on her 40 years of public service. My understanding is Bonnie plans to travel to the Grand Canyon in the coming year and volunteer. I wish her the best of luck in her retirement.

PASTOR UYLESS D. LANDRY, SR.
40 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE
COMMUNITY

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 40 years of service in the city of New Orleans, Louisiana by Pastor Uyless D. Landry, Sr.

Pastor Uyless D. Landry, Sr. is the senior pastor of First Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, in the uptown section of New Orleans, Louisiana. For the last 40 years he has been much more than a typical pastor, who caters exclusively to the needs of his immediate parishioners. Since 1978, his reach has extended beyond the walls of the local church. In the community he is a humanitarian and philanthropist. Over the years, he has helped thousands of people with sound counsel and financial assistance, without federal aid.

In 1951, Pastor Landry graduated from Booker T. Washington High School. In 1952, he married his high school sweetheart Emily Jackson. Together they raised four children, Uyless D. Landry, Jr., Darrell, Dawn and Annette Landry. In 1969, Pastor Landry was called to the ministry. In 1974, he was ordained and licensed to preach in the state of Louisiana. In 1975, he received a Bachelor of Theology from Union Baptist Theological Seminary. In 1978, he received a Master of Theology from Union Baptist Theological Seminary.

Pastor Landry loves the city and the people of New Orleans. His sense of service is forever a part of the city and his dedication to community embodies the spirit of New Orleans.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate Pastor Uyless D. Landry, Sr. for 40 years of service in the city of New Orleans, Louisiana.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes. Had I been present for roll call vote number 710, S 1552—No Human Trafficking on Our Roads Act, I would have voted yea.

THE TRUMP JERUSALEM

HON. SCOTT TAYLOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a statement on behalf of my constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman. Rabbi Zoberman is the Founding Rabbi of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Born in Chu, Kazakhstan (USSR) in 1945, he is the son of Polish Holocaust Survivors.

The Trump Jerusalem Declaration is the first recognition by a U.S. President since the 1948 establishment of the Jewish State of Israel, with President Truman's support, that Jerusalem is indeed its rightful, not only de-facto, capital. How ironic and telling that both President Truman and Trump were opposed by their State Department when taking their critical moves. The United States, the world's only superpower and Israel's major ally, reached out to the world's only sovereign Jewish state to assure its questioned authentic narrative at a time of fateful crossroads in the Middle East and beyond.

Israel has the anomaly of being powerful yet vulnerable given its limited geography and sworn enemies. If Israel's Jerusalem narrative were false, it might unravel its bond with the entire Land of Israel. No wonder that both the Israeli government ruling coalition and opposition have applauded President Trump's forthright action. The Trump Declaration is flexible enough concerning actual arrangements yet to be made by the Israelis and Palestinians. In a so far moribund and stagnant Peace Process, Trump's reshuffling of the cards and providing a "reality check," particularly to the Palestinians, will hopefully gather fruitful momentum. Israel knows that its Palestinian problem is not going away, threatening its Jewish and Democratic character. The Palestinians may finally realize that time is not necessarily on their side.

Israel's past Prime-Ministers Barak and Olmert offered generous concessions that were nonetheless rebuffed by the Palestinians whose expectations are always higher. The late Prime-Minister Sharon's painful return of Gaza with a flourishing Israeli community has been rewarded with Hamas and Islamic Jihad rockets and terror tunnels. Arab leaders have historically paid lip-service to their Palestinian brethren, while Israel absorbed close to a million Jewish refugees from Arab lands. The Sunni Arab world is currently preoccupied with a nuclear ambitious and aggressive Shia Iran whose menacing presence is growing close to Israel's borders. Israel, characterized by Iran as "little Satan" and the United States as "big Satan," is a credible partner in counter-acting Iran's worrisome posture.

How is it that the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular "have never

missed an opportunity to miss an opportunity," to quote the late Abba Eban, Israel's eloquent Foreign Minister and statesman. They unwisely rejected United Nations 181 Partition Resolution of November 29, 1947, whose 70th anniversary was just celebrated by the Jewish people and still protested by Palestinians blind to history's opportunities and facts. The Palestinian leaders have been lacking the courage to confront their bitterly divided people with historical truth and reality that the Jewish state is deeply rooted, longer than anyone else, in its ancestral homeland. The Holocaust, unfortunately, is not a figment of Zionist imagination as some Palestinian, Arab and Iranian leaders claim. Jordan lost East Jerusalem and the West Bank in the 1967 Six-Day-War, after King Hussein was warned not to attack Israel.

An active movement to delegitimize Israel, perceiving it as a European colonial invader, is emboldened by the numerical and material influence of the 57 Muslim nation-states, including 22 Arab countries, represented in the United Nations U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley should be hailed as a heroic voice of steadfast support for Israel, with President Trump's indispensable encouragement, in that deaf institution betraying its foundational promise. Coupled with hypocritical Europe's fading guilt for the monumental Holocaust, there is a preposterous charge that the Israeli-Jewish saga has no historical leg to stand on with Jerusalem ever a Muslim entity and the Temple Mount including the Western Wall/Noble Sanctuary void of vital Jewish as well as Christian memories. Totally disregarded are a great Biblical heritage, unbroken Jewish presence, millennial prayers and efforts to fully return to the physical and spiritual birthplace of "Zion and Jerusalem."

It is a non-starter for peaceful coexistence to reject Jewish peoplehood represented in the Jewish state. Israel has turned into a collective target, being demonized and dehumanized with never-dying anti-Semitism, Western civilization's oldest disease that Israel's rebirth sought to cure. Given that Israel is perhaps the only nation whose very existence is being challenged and living in a hostile environment, it is a wonder that Israel created a robust democracy protecting human rights in a region abhorring them, rejecting progressive ideas.

Rather than the Palestinians despairing, a two-state creative solution is within reach with joint arrangements in Jerusalem, however with a de-militarized Palestinian state friendly to both Israel and Jordan. A future confederation involving Israel, Jordan, and Palestine is not farfetched. Surely both sides can find in their separate and even conflicting narratives meeting points and common agendas for an assured bright future, for both peoples are destined to forever be neighbors. Palestinian education sans honoring its terrorists and ceasing hatred for Israel and Jews is urgently needed. Even Egypt and Jordan who signed peace treaties with Israel have neglected to teach their populations basic facts concerning Israel, and to welcome its eager friendship. In this sacred season of the lights of Chanukah and Christmas we remember that both Jews and Christians are at risk in the Middle East. Jerusalem and the hills of Judea and Samaria, once the setting for inspiring prophecies, have ironically and tragically been deprived of Shalom's divine gifts of genuine peace.

The British Foreign Secretary Lord Balfour Declaration on November 2, 1917 which empowered the Zionist movement with international clout is significantly reinforced by President Trump Jerusalem Declaration on December 6, 2017. President

Trump is now enshrined too in Jewish history. He also is the first sitting U.S. President to pay a visit at the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site. Both declarations allow for compromise by both sides whose century old rivalry may yet turn into a mutually rewarding source of healing.

HONORING KEISER UNIVERSITY
ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Keiser University on celebrating its 40th anniversary. In doing so, I am pleased to be joined by colleagues of mine in the Florida Congressional delegation on introducing a resolution to mark this important milestone.

Keiser University was the vision of Dr. Arthur Keiser and his mother, Ms. Evelyn Keiser. In 1977, they set out to create a university designed to better serve adult learners seeking a career-focused education. Today, Keiser University proudly offers over 100 degree granting programs, and was recently ranked as the second best Florida College by the prestigious U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges 2017, rankings in the South region.

Over the past 40 years, Keiser University has been a shining example of what one can achieve through hard work and dedication. It has grown to become the third largest not-for-profit university in Florida, and boasts more than 66,000 alumni. The University has even stretched beyond the borders of the United States, establishing campuses abroad in Nicaragua, Moldova, and China.

Since coming to the U.S. Congress, I have watched Keiser University grow and expand its reach. Today, it has an annual economic impact of approximately \$3 billion in Florida, and benefits our residents with over 30,000 direct and indirect jobs each year.

Keiser University's philosophy of putting students first is to be commended. They have proven themselves to be a home for quality higher education, and a source of great pride to the people of Florida. I am truly honored to represent Keiser University in my Congressional district.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Keiser University on its 40th anniversary with colleagues of mine in the Florida delegation. I wish Dr. Arthur Keiser, his mother Ms. Evelyn Keiser, Ms. Belinda Keiser, and the Board of Trustees many more years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF LAKELAND MAYOR
HOWARD WIGGS'S RETIREMENT

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, some people want to be something. Some people want to do something. Lakeland Mayor Howard Wiggs has been a doer for our community, a leader, and perhaps most important, a friendly neighbor. For 25 years, Mayor Wiggs has reformed local government, inspired residents to get

more involved, and cut more ribbons than anyone can count. And while that last part may sound ceremonial, it's not: He got to cut those ribbons because during his tenure, and with his leadership, Lakeland has flourished with tremendous growth, economic development and revitalization, and the expansion and improvement of critical public infrastructure. Now, as we bid him a happy retirement, he should know: We all love Lakeland, and Mayor Wiggs, through his wisdom and discernment, has made it even more lovable.

Our nation's prosperity relies on the strength of strong local governance, and for 25 years, Mayor Wiggs has made his corner of America that much stronger. It has been my privilege to work with Mayor Wiggs, both as a Member of the Florida House of Representatives and now in the United States House of Representatives. He has been a stalwart advocate for common sense, for decency, and for hard work. I know that my wife Cindy and I will always have him and his wife Linda in our hearts and prayers for continued blessing, good health, and God's favor for the future. We thank him for his service, and wish him all the best.

HONORING WESTCHESTER DAY
SCHOOL 70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the great educational institutions in my district, the Westchester Day School, which this year will be celebrating its incredible 70th anniversary.

Founded in 1948 with an enrollment of 54 boys and girls in kindergarten through grade 4, Westchester Day School (WDS) serves as the primary Modern Orthodox co-educational day school for the Westchester community, providing excellence in Judaic and General Studies education in a warm and nurturing environment. The school's mission is to prepare students to live as mensches and lifelong learners and inspires them to impact the world around them by cultivating a commitment to Torah, midot, community and academic rigor.

WDS students become lifelong, independent learners who grow from inquiry, discovery, and reflective trial and error. They are problem-solvers who are flexible and adapt to new situations, while identifying and responding to the needs of others with sympathy and empathy. WDS also sets out to instill within its students a love of God and a yearning to find spirituality, fulfillment and joy in Jewish ritual, Torah-learning. They understand that they are a link in a chain of tradition that has flourished for thousands of years. Also instilled within the students is a devotion to the State of Israel, something I as Ranking Member on the House Foreign Affairs Committee am particularly heartened by and pleased to see.

For 70 years now WDS has served as a beacon of educational excellence in Westchester, as the work done by its teachers, students, and faculty has been exemplary. I want to congratulate the entire WDS community on this wonderful milestone. Here's to many more years of great success and learning.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE C. WRIGHT,
JR.

HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of trailblazer and Delaware icon, George C. Wright, Jr.

From humble beginnings in Chesapeake City, Maryland, George began his education in a one-room schoolhouse and excelled as an accomplished relay racer. Following the competition of his schooling, George was drafted into the United States Army, where he served in one of the first integrated units.

After transitioning from the armed forces to civilian life, George continued his life of service at Dover Air Force Base in a career that spanned 33 years. His tenure began by off-loading trucks in the Aerial Port section of the base and led to his serving as the Chief of Staff for the Civilian Personnel Office's Affirmative Employment Section, the second most senior non-military position at Dover.

George was a dedicated public servant who built bridges and found common ground while serving for 12 years on the Smyrna Town Council. In 1981, he overcame the odds by becoming mayor of Smyrna by twenty votes—making history as the first African American to lead a Delaware municipality. George dutifully served his town for 14 years as mayor and ran unopposed in every re-election race—highlighting the faith his community placed in him. George's work in government inspired him to help Delaware's other 57 cities and towns through his role as executive director of the League of Local Governments and as a board member of the National League of Cities.

George was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather and was an active member of Bethel AME Church in Smyrna. He will be missed by family members, friends, and neighbors alike for his community leadership and the role model he became for young people across Delaware.

We are deeply saddened by the loss of George, and I want to express my deep gratitude for his service to our state, commitment to bettering the lives of those he served, and for breaking down barriers that allowed me and many others to follow in his footsteps.

MACOMB COUNTY 200TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 200th Anniversary of the founding of Macomb County, Michigan. Residents and leaders of Macomb County will kick off a series of bicentennial celebrations on January 10, 2018. I have been privileged to represent major portions of Macomb County for over 25 years and to have played a role in so many efforts vital to the economic interests of its residents, and in many other facets important to their lives.

Macomb County's first residents were immigrants attracted to Michigan by the fur trade.

It was organized on January 15, 1818, and was the third county created in what was then the Michigan territory. It was named for General Alexander Macomb, a native of Detroit who commanded U.S. Army troops in defeating the British in Plattsburgh, NY during the War of 1812. General Macomb later became the commanding general of the U.S. Army.

Economic opportunity has driven the growth of Macomb County ever since, and with more than 18,000 businesses, Macomb County is a leader in a wide array of industries, including the auto industry, defense, advanced manufacturing, health care, agriculture, and many more.

Ford, General Motors, and Fiat Chrysler employ 35,000 people at 10 facilities in Macomb County, and 460 companies in Macomb provide products and services for the auto industry. The effort beginning in 2009 to save the domestic auto industry, in which my Michigan colleagues in the Congress and I were deeply involved, was critically important to the country, and was deeply essential to the well-being of Macomb County and its people.

The vital role Macomb County has played in our nation's defense was prominently displayed to the world during World War II, when the Detroit Arsenal Tank Plant, located in Warren, MI produced a quarter of the tanks used in the war. Due to the efforts of federal, state, and local leaders, Macomb County has become an increasingly important center for the defense sector. Today, with strong support from us in Congress, the U.S. Army's TACOM Life Cycle Management Command; Tank and Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC); Selfridge Air National Guard Base; and the Michigan Defense Center are all major drivers of Macomb County's economy while contributing to the strength of our country.

As important as businesses are to Macomb County, its vitality rests on its more than 867,000 people. Macomb County residents take pride in their communities and are constantly engaged in making them even stronger. They value the 22 strong elementary and secondary school districts in the County, as well as Macomb Community College, recognized as one of the finest community colleges in the nation. They appreciate the important role that water resources including Lake St. Clair and the Clinton River play in the County's quality of life, as well as in its economy. And as Macomb County continues to grow, they join with elected leaders in welcoming new residents, whether they come from other communities in Southeast Michigan or from other countries, such as Iraq, India, Albania, Mexico, Lebanon, Yemen, Bangladesh, and many others. This is why leadership of Macomb County created and implemented the successful "OneMacomb" program, which promotes multiculturalism and inclusiveness as the County's population becomes increasingly diverse.

Mr. Speaker, since its inception 200 years ago, Macomb County has made immeasurable contributions to the Metro Detroit region, to the entire State of Michigan, and to our country. I encourage my colleagues to join me in celebrating Macomb County's bicentennial and in congratulating the people of Macomb County on this important historical milestone.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, January 9, 2018 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED JANUARY 10

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine America's water infrastructure needs and challenges.

SD-406

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kurt D. Engelhardt, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Barry W. Ashe, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, Howard C. Nielson, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, and James R. Sweeney II, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Indiana.

SD-226

JANUARY 11

Time to be announced

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Mitchell Zais, of South Carolina, to be Deputy Secretary, Kenneth L. Marcus, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, and James Blew, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, all of the Department of Education, Patrick Pizzella, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary, Scott A. Mugno, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary, Cheryl Marie Stanton, of South Carolina, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, and William Beach, of Kansas, to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics, all of Department of Labor, and Brett Giroir, of Texas, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, and to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

TBA

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine United States policy in Syria post-ISIS.

SD-419

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 2152, to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for assistance for victims of child pornography, and the nominations of Stuart Kyle Duncan, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, David Ryan Stras, of Minnesota, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, Fernando Rodriguez, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Elizabeth L. Branch, of Georgia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, Annemarie Carney Axon, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, R. Stan Baker, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Georgia, Jeffrey Uhlman Beaverstock, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama, Liles Clifton Burke, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, Thomas Alvin Farr, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Charles Barnes Goodwin, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, Michael Joseph Juneau, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, Matthew J. Kacsmark, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, Emily Coody Marks, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, Terry Fitzgerald Moorer, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama, Mark Saalfeld Norris, Sr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, William M. Ray II, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, Eli Jeremy Richardson, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee, Holly Lou Teeter, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas, and Brian Allen Benczkowski, of Virginia, Jeffrey Bossert Clark, of Virginia, and Eric S. Dreiband, of Maryland, each to be an Assistant Attorney General, Joseph D. Brown, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, Matthew D. Krueger, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, Norman Euell Arflack, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Kentucky, and Ted G. Kamatchus, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Iowa, all of the Department of Justice.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

JANUARY 16

10 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Homeland Security.

SH-216

JANUARY 17

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine breaking new ground in agribusiness opportunities in Indian Country.

SD-628

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S49–S79

Measures Introduced: One bill was introduced, as follows: S. 2282. **Page S67**

Measures Passed:

RAISE Family Caregivers Act: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3759, to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a Family Caregiving Strategy, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S68–69**

Coordinated Ocean Monitoring and Research Act: Senate passed S. 1425, to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S69–75**

McConnell (for Wicker) Amendment No. 1869, to authorize an annual appropriation of \$40,200,000 through fiscal year 2021 to carry out the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.). **Page S72**

Campbell Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of William L. Campbell, Jr., of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee. **Pages S50–60**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 89 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. 2), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S60**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 2:15 p.m., on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, all post-cloture time on the nomination be considered expired, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination, with no intervening action or debate. **Page S75**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, January 9, 2018; and that all time during adjournment, recess,

morning business, and Leader remarks count post-cloture on the nomination. **Page S75**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Samuel Dale Brownback, of Kansas, to be Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom.

Kevin Fahey, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

William Roper, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

Anne Marie White, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management).

Phyllis L. Bayer, of Mississippi, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Alex A. Beehler, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

Charles Douglas Stimson, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy.

Marvin Goodfriend, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2016.

Robert Hunter Kurtz, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Jelena McWilliams, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of six years.

Jelena McWilliams, of Ohio, to be Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of five years.

Brian D. Montgomery, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of four years.

Randal Quarles, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2018.

David J. Ryder, of New Jersey, to be Director of the Mint for a term of five years.

Thomas E. Workman, of New York, to be a Member of the Financial Stability Oversight Council for a term of six years.

Jeffrey DeWit, of Arizona, to be Chief Financial Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Dana Baiocco, of Ohio, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of seven years from October 27, 2017.

James Bridenstine, of Oklahoma, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Ann Marie Buerkle, of New York, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of seven years from October 27, 2018.

Ann Marie Buerkle, of New York, to be Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Brendan Carr, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2018.

Diana Furchtgott-Roth, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

Barry Lee Myers, of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

Leon A. Westmoreland, of Georgia, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

Susan Combs, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

Steven Gardner, of Kentucky, to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

Ryan Douglas Nelson, of Idaho, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

Tim Thomas, of Kentucky, to be Federal Cochairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Kathleen Hartnett White, of Texas, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality.

Alex Michael Azar II, of Indiana, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Adam Lerrick, of Wyoming, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

Kevin K. McAleenan, of Hawaii, to be Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

Stephen Parente, of Minnesota, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Sean Cairncross, of Minnesota, to be Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation.

Andrew M. Gellert, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Chile.

Kevin Edward Moley, of Arizona, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Organization Affairs).

Josephine Olsen, of Maryland, to be Director of the Peace Corps.

Leandro Rizzuto, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to Barbados, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Marie Royce, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Educational and Cultural Affairs).

Stephen Akard, of Indiana, to be Director General of the Foreign Service.

James Randolph Evans, of Georgia, to be Ambassador to Luxembourg.

Richard Grenell, of California, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany.

Doug Manchester, of California, to be Ambassador to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Yleem D. S. Poblete, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Verification and Compliance).

Susan A. Thornton, of Maine, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (East Asian and Pacific Affairs).

Eric M. Ueland, of Oregon, to be an Under Secretary of State (Management).

James Edwin Williams, of Utah, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Labor.

Marco M. Rajkovich, Jr., of Kentucky, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of six years expiring August 30, 2022.

William Beach, of Kansas, to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor, for a term of four years.

James Blew, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, Department of Education.

Brett Giroir, of Texas, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, subject to the qualifications therefor as provided by law and regulations, and to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Kenneth L. Marcus, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Department of Education.

Scott A. Mugno, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Patrick Pizzella, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor.

Cheryl Marie Stanton, of South Carolina, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

Mitchell Zais, of South Carolina, to be Deputy Secretary of Education.

Isabel Marie Keenan Patelunas, of Pennsylvania, to be Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of the Treasury.

Barry W. Ashe, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Annemarie Carney Axon, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama.

Jeffrey Uhlman Beaverstock, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama.

Brian Allen Benczkowski, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Ryan Wesley Bounds, of Oregon, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Elizabeth L. Branch, of Georgia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Michael B. Brennan, of Wisconsin, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

Liles Clifton Burke, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama.

Jeffrey Bossert Clark, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Daniel Desmond Domenico, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

Eric S. Dreiband, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Stuart Kyle Duncan, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

Kurt D. Engelhardt, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

Thomas Alvin Farr, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

Charles Barnes Goodwin, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma.

Joseph H. Hunt, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Michael Joseph Juneau, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

Matthew J. Kacsmark, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

Emily Coody Marks, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama.

Terry Fitzgerald Moorer, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama.

Mark Saalfield Norris, Sr., of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee.

William M. Ray II, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Eli Jeremy Richardson, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee.

Jesse Seroyer, Jr., of Alabama, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Alabama for the term of four years.

David Ryan Stras, of Minnesota, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit.

Holly Lou Teeter, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

James E. Trainor III, of Texas, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2023.

Andrew Wheeler, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Kathleen Troia McFarland, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Singapore.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Foreign Service, Marine Corps, and Navy. **Pages S76–79**

Executive Communications: Pages S65–67

Executive Reports of Committees: Page S67

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S67–68

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Page S68

Additional Statements: Pages S64–65

Amendments Submitted: Page S68

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S68

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—2) **Page S60**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 7:25 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 9, 2018. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S75.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Margaret Weichert, of Georgia, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget, and Mark L. Greenblatt, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Export-Import Bank.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 5 public bills, H.R. 4737–4741; and 6 resolutions, H. Res. 675 (1/3), 676 (1/5), and 677–680 (1/8), were introduced. Page H18

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H18–19

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2954, to amend the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975 to specify which depository institutions are subject to the maintenance of records and disclosure requirements of such Act, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–485);

H.R. 772, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to improve and clarify certain disclosure requirements for restaurants and similar retail food establishments, and to amend the authority to bring proceedings under section 403A, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–486); and

H.R. 424, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to reissue final rules relating to listing of the gray wolf in the Western Great Lakes and Wyoming under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–487). Pages H17–18

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Mitchell to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H5

Recess: The House recessed at 2:02 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. Page H5

Call of the House: The Speaker called the House to order and ascertained the presence of a quorum (357 present, Roll No. 1). Pages H5–6

Committee to Notify the President of the Assembly of the House: The House agreed to H. Res. 677, authorizing the Speaker to appoint a committee on the part of the House to notify the President that a quorum of the House has assembled, and that the House is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make. Subsequently, the Speaker appointed Representatives McCarthy and Pelosi to the committee. Page H6

Notifying the Senate That a Quorum of the House Has Assembled: The House agreed to H. Res. 678, authorizing the Clerk of the House to inform the Senate that a quorum of the House is present and that the House is ready to proceed with business. Page H6

Meeting Hour: The House agreed to H. Res. 679, providing for the hour of meeting of the House. Page H6

Speaker Pro Tempore Designations: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Mooney (WV), Representative Simpson, Representative Mitchell, Representative Bucshon, Representative Arrington, and Representative McHenry to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through the remainder of the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress. Page H6

Morning Hour Debate: Agreed by unanimous consent that the order of the House of January 3, 2017, providing for Morning Hour Debate, be extended for the remainder of the 115th Congress, except that H. Res. 679 shall supplant H. Res. 9. Page H6

Quorum Calls—Votes: One quorum call (Roll No. 1) developed during the proceedings of today and appears on pages H5–6.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1374)

H.R. 4661, to reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, the Assistance to Firefighters Grants program, the Fire Prevention and Safety Grants program, and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant program, and for other purposes. Signed on January 3, 2018. (Public Law 115–98)

S. 1536, to designate a human trafficking prevention coordinator and to expand the scope of activities authorized under the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's outreach and education program to include human trafficking prevention activities, and for other purposes. Signed on January 3, 2018. (Public Law 115–99)

S. 2273, to extend the period during which vessels that are shorter than 79 feet in length and fishing vessels are not required to have a permit for discharges incidental to the normal operation of the vessel. Signed on January 3, 2018. (Public Law 115–100)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY,
JANUARY 9, 2018

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine combating money laundering and other forms of illicit finance, focusing on opportunities to reform and strengthen Bank Secrecy Act enforcement, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the anticipated nomination of Alex Michael Azar II, of Indiana, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues, to hold hearings to examine attacks on United States diplomats in Cuba, focusing on response and oversight, 10 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine the opioid crisis, focusing on how to move forward, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, hearing entitled "China's Pursuit of Emerging and Exponential Technologies", 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled "DOE Modernization: Advancing DOE's Mission for National, Economic, and Energy Security of the United States", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade, hearing entitled "Evaluating CFIUS: Challenges Posed by a Changing Global Economy", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing entitled "Legislative Proposals for a More Efficient Federal Financial Regulatory Regime: Part III", 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing on H.R. 4532, the "Shash Já National Monument and Indian Creek National Monument Act", 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on S. 140, to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund; and S. 139, the "Rapid DNA Act of 2017" [FISA Amendments Reauthorization Act of 2017], 3 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of January 9 through January 12, 2018

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of William L. Campbell, Jr., of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of William L. Campbell, Jr., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Thomas Lee Robinson Parker, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: January 9, to hold hearings to examine combating money laundering and other forms of illicit finance, focusing on opportunities to reform and strengthen Bank Secrecy Act enforcement, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: January 10, to hold hearings to examine America's water infrastructure needs and challenges, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: January 9, to hold hearings to examine the anticipated nomination of Alex Michael Azar II, of Indiana, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: January 9, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues, to hold hearings to examine attacks on United States diplomats in Cuba, focusing on response and oversight, 10 a.m., SD-419.

January 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine United States policy in Syria post-ISIS, 10 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: January 9, to hold hearings to examine the opioid crisis, focusing on how to move forward, 10 a.m., SD-430.

January 11, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Mitchell Zais, of South Carolina, to be Deputy Secretary, Kenneth L. Marcus, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, and James Blew, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, all of the Department of Education, Patrick Pizzella, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary, Scott A. Mugno, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary, Cheryl Marie Stanton, of South Carolina, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, and William Beach, of Kansas, to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics, all of Department of Labor, and

Brett Giroir, of Texas, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, and to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Committee on the Judiciary: January 10, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kurt D. Engelhardt, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Barry W. Ashe, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, Howard C. Nielson, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, and James R. Sweeney II, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Indiana, 10 a.m., SD-226.

January 11, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 2152, to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for assistance for victims of child pornography, and the nominations of Stuart Kyle Duncan, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, David Ryan Stras, of Minnesota, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, Fernando Rodriguez, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Elizabeth L. Branch, of Georgia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, Annemarie Carney Axon, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, R. Stan Baker, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Georgia, Jeffrey Uhlman Beaverstock, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama, Liles Clifton Burke, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, Thomas Alvin Farr, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Charles Barnes Goodwin, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, Michael Joseph Juneau, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, Matthew J. Kacsmayk, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, Emily Coody Marks, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, Terry Fitzgerald Moorer, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama, Mark Saalfield Norris, Sr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, William M. Ray II, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, Eli Jeremy Richardson, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee, Holly Lou Teeter, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas, and Brian Allen Benczkowski, of Virginia, Jeffrey Bossert Clark, of Virginia, and Eric S. Dreiband, of Maryland, each to be an Assistant Attorney General, Joseph D. Brown, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, Matthew D. Krueger, to be United States

Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, Norman Euell Arflack, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Kentucky, and Ted G. Kamatchus, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Iowa, all of the Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: January 9, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

January 11, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH-219.

House Committees

Committee on Armed Services, January 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Department of Defense Update on the Financial Improvement and Audit Remediation (FIAR) Plan”, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, January 10, Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade, hearing entitled “A Further Examination of Federal Reserve Reform Proposals”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, January 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Sanctions and Financial Pressure: Major National Security Tools”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

January 10, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, hearing entitled “Upcoming Elections in the Western Hemisphere: Implications for U.S. Policy”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, January 10, Full Committee, ratification of subcommittee assignments; markup on H.R. 506, the “Preventing Crimes Against Veterans Act of 2017”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, January 10, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 219, the “Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project Boundary Correction Act”; H.R. 801, the “Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act”; H.R. 1220, to establish the Adams Memorial Commission to carry out the provisions of Public Law 107-62, and for other purposes; H.R. 2711, the “National Memorial to Fallen Educators Act”; H.R. 3133, the “Streamlining Environmental Approvals Act of 2017”; and S. 117, the “Alex Diekmann Peak Designation Act of 2017”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, January 10, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4675, the “Low Dose Radiation Research Act of 2017”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, January 10, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing entitled “Home Loan Churning Practices and How Veteran Homebuyers are Being Affected”, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, January 9

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, January 9

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of William L. Campbell, Jr., of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of William L. Campbell, Jr., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Thomas Lee Robinson Parker, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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