

PERMISSION TO MODIFY AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. THORNBERRY OF TEXAS PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 905

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 5515 in the Committee of the Whole pursuant to House Resolution 908, the fourth set of amendments en bloc offered by myself pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 905 be considered to have been adopted with the modification I have placed at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the modification.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike amendment #69 printed in House Report 115-698.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The amendments en bloc are modified.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 908 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5515.

Will the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) kindly resume the chair.

□ 1653

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5515) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, with Mr. MARSHALL (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 50 printed in House Report 115-702 offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. THORNBERRY OF TEXAS

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to House Resolution 908, I offer amendments en bloc.

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

Amendments en bloc No. 2 consisting of amendment Nos. 31, 32, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, and 76 printed in House Report 115-702, offered by Mr. THORNBERRY of Texas:

AMENDMENT NO. 31 OFFERED BY MR. ROSS OF FLORIDA

At the end of title XI, add the following:

SEC. 11. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7131 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e)(1)(A) Not later than March 31 of each calendar year, the Office of Personnel Management, in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget, shall submit to each House of Congress a report on the operation of this section during the fiscal year last ending before the start of such calendar year.

“(B) Not later than December 31 of each calendar year, each agency (as defined by section 7103(a)(3)) shall furnish to the Office of Personnel Management the information which such Office requires, with respect to such agency, for purposes of the report which is next due under subparagraph (A).

“(2) Each report by the Office of Personnel Management under this subsection shall include, with respect to the fiscal year described in paragraph (1)(A), at least the following information:

“(A) The total amount of official time granted to employees.

“(B) The average amount of official time expended per bargaining unit employee.

“(C) The specific types of activities or purposes for which official time was granted, and the impact which the granting of such official time for such activities or purposes had on agency operations.

“(D) The total number of employees to whom official time was granted, and, of that total, the number who were not engaged in any activities or purposes except activities or purposes involving the use of official time.

“(E) The total amount of compensation (including fringe benefits) afforded to employees in connection with activities or purposes for which they were granted official time.

“(F) The total amount of official time spent by employees representing Federal employees who are not union members in matters authorized by this chapter.

“(G) A description of any room or space designated at the agency (or its subcomponent) where official time activities will be conducted, including the square footage of any such room or space.

“(3) All information included in a report by the Office of Personnel Management under this subsection with respect to a fiscal year—

“(A) shall be shown both agency-by-agency and for all agencies; and

“(B) shall be accompanied by the corresponding information (submitted by the Office in its report under this subsection) for the fiscal year before the fiscal year to which such report pertains, together with appropriate comparisons and analyses.

“(4) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘official time’ means any period of time, regardless of agency nomenclature—

“(A) which may be granted to an employee under this chapter (including a collective bargaining agreement entered into under this chapter) to perform representational or consultative functions; and

“(B) during which the employee would otherwise be in a duty status.”

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall be effective beginning with the report which, under the provisions of such amendment, is first required to be submitted by the Office of Personnel Management to each House of Congress by a date which occurs at least 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MR. ZELDIN OF NEW YORK

In section 1225 (relating to strategy to counter destabilizing activities of Iran)—

(1) redesignate subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) insert after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

(c) UNITED STATES POLICY.—It shall be the policy of the United States to provide foreign countries that are willing to materially assist United States efforts to counter Iran in the Middle East with support under the strategy authorized under subsection (a) including, as appropriate, with partner benefits commensurate with such support.

AMENDMENT NO. 61 OFFERED BY MS. BLUNT ROCHESTER OF DELAWARE

At the end of subtitle G of title X of division A, add the following:

SEC. ____ SENSE OF CONGRESS HONORING THE DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, DELAWARE, HOME TO THE 436TH AIRLIFT WING, THE 512TH AIRLIFT WING, AND THE CHARLES C. CARSON CENTER FOR MORTUARY AFFAIRS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress find the following:

(1) The Dover Air Force Base is home more than 4,000 active-duty military and civilian employees tasked with defending the United States of America.

(2) The Dover Air Force Base supports the mission of the 436th Airlift Wing, known as “Eagle Wing” and the 512th Airlift Wing, known as Liberty Wing.

(3) The “Eagle Wing” serves as a unit of the Eighteenth Air Force headquartered with the Air Mobility Command at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois.

(4) The “Eagle Wing” flies hundreds of missions throughout the world and provides a quarter of the United States’ strategic airlift capability and boasts a global reach to over 100 countries around the world.

(5) The Dover Air Force Base houses incredible aircrafts utilized by the United States Air Force, including the C-5M Super Galaxy and C-17A Globemaster III aircraft.

(6) The Dover Air Force Base operates the largest and busiest air freight terminal in the Department of Defense, fulfilling an important role in our Nation’s military.

(7) The Air Mobility Command Museum is located on the Dover Air Force base and welcomes thousands of visitors each year to learn more about the United States Air Force.

(8) The Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs fulfills our Nation’s sacred commitment of ensuring dignity, honor and respect to the fallen and care service and support to their families.

(9) The mortuary mission at Dover Air Force Base dates back to 1955 and is the only Department of Defense mortuary in the continental United States.

(10) Service members who serve at the Center for Mortuary Affairs are often so moved by their work that they voluntarily elect to serve multiple tours because they feel called to serve our fallen heroes.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Congress—

(1) honors and expresses sincerest gratitude to the women and men of the Dover Air Force Base for their distinguished service;

(2) acknowledges the incredible sacrifice and service of the families of active duty members of the United States military;

(3) encourages the people of the United States to keep in their thoughts and their prayers the women and men of the United States Armed Forces; and

(4) recognizes the incredibly unique and important work of the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations and the role they play in honoring our fallen heroes.

AMENDMENT NO. 62 OFFERED BY MR. FITZPATRICK OF PENNSYLVANIA

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

SEC. 2. PROCESS FOR COORDINATION OF STUDIES AND ANALYSIS RESEARCH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

The Secretary of Defense shall implement a Department of Defense-wide process under

which the heads of the military departments and Defense Agencies responsible for managing requests for studies and analysis research are required to coordinate annual research requests and ongoing research efforts to minimize duplication and reduce costs.

AMENDMENT NO. 63 OFFERED BY MR. FITZPATRICK OF PENNSYLVANIA

Add at the end of subtitle C of title IX the following new section:

SEC. 9. REVIEW OF FOREIGN CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES AND ANALYSIS OF FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS APPROPRIATION.

With respect to a contract for goods and services paid for with foreign currency, the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), in coordination with each Secretary of a military department, shall conduct a review of the exchange rate for such foreign currency used when making a disbursement pursuant to such a contract to determine whether cost-savings opportunities exist by more consistently selecting cost-effective rates. Such review shall include an analysis of realized and projected losses to determine the necessary balance of the appropriation "Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Defense". The Secretary of Defense may use the results of such analysis to determine the amount of any transfers to the appropriation "Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Defense".

AMENDMENT NO. 64 OFFERED BY MR. FITZPATRICK OF PENNSYLVANIA

Page 124, after line 2, insert the following new section:

SEC. 528. COMPLETION OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DIRECTIVE 2310.07E REGARDING MISSING PERSONS.

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 65 OFFERED BY MR. POE OF TEXAS

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

SEC. 12. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.

(a) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall impose the sanctions described in paragraph (2) with respect to As-Saib Ahl al-Haq and Harakat Hizballah al-Nujaba and foreign persons that are officials, agents, affiliates of, or owned or controlled by As-Saib Ahl al-Haq or Harakat Hizballah al-Nujaba, as the case may be.

(2) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this paragraph are sanctions applicable with respect to a foreign person pursuant to Executive Order 13224 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism).

(3) EXCEPTION.—The authorities and requirements to impose sanctions under this section shall not include the authority or requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods (as such term is defined in section 16 of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. 4618) (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)).

(b) ADDITIONAL REPORTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to the Com-

mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of Senate a report that includes a detailed list of global entities with respect to which there is a reasonable basis to determine that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps has an ownership interest in such entity of not less than 33 percent.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 66 OFFERED BY MR. CARBAJAL OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle I of title V, add the following new section:

SEC. 5. USE OF MOBILE APPLICATIONS FOR TRAINING MANUALS.

The Secretary of Defense shall encourage the military departments to transition training manuals, emergency guidance, and other publications needed to train members of the Armed Forces to applications on mobile telephones that use innovative technologies and provide for interaction between trainees and information needed to complete training in a manner that is cost efficient.

AMENDMENT NO. 67 OFFERED BY MR. LANCE OF NEW JERSEY

Page 175, after line 17, insert the following new section:

SEC. 573. AWARD OF MEDALS OR OTHER COMMENDATIONS TO HANDLERS OF MILITARY WORKING DOGS AND MILITARY WORKING DOGS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "Guardians of America's Freedom Medal Act".

(b) AWARD OF MEDALS OR OTHER COMMENDATIONS TO HANDLERS OF MILITARY WORKING DOGS AND MILITARY WORKING DOGS.—

(1) PROGRAM OF AWARD REQUIRED.—Each Secretary of a military department shall carry out a program to provide for the award of one or more medals or other commendations to handlers of military working dogs, and to military working dogs, under the jurisdiction of such Secretary to recognize valor or meritorious achievement by such handlers and dogs.

(2) MEDAL AND COMMENDATIONS.—Any medal or commendation awarded pursuant to a program under paragraph (1) shall be of such design, and include such elements, as the Secretary of the military department concerned shall specify.

(3) REGULATIONS.—Medals and commendations shall be awarded under programs under paragraph (1) in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense for purposes of this section.

AMENDMENT NO. 68 OFFERED BY MR. FOSTER OF ILLINOIS

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

SEC. 31. NUCLEAR FORENSICS ANALYSES.

(a) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences for an independent assessment of nuclear forensic analyses conducted by the Federal Government.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The assessment conducted by the National Academy of Sciences shall, at minimum, include the following:

(1) An assessment of a representative sample of nuclear forensic analyses from across the Federal departments and agencies, with particular emphasis on the validity, quality, value, cost effectiveness, gaps, and timeliness of such analyses.

(2) An assessment of the methodologies used by nuclear forensic analyses from

across the Federal departments and agencies, including the scientific rigor of such methodologies.

(3) Recommendations for improving nuclear forensics analyses conducted by the Federal Government, including any best practices or lessons learned that should be shared across the Federal departments and agencies.

(c) SUBMISSION.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing the assessment of the National Academy of Sciences under subsection (a).

(d) BRIEFING ON SENIOR-LEVEL INVOLVEMENT IN EXERCISES.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a briefing on the involvement of senior-level executive branch leadership in recent and planned nuclear terrorism preparedness or response exercises, or any other exercise that have nuclear forensic analysis as a component of the exercise.

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

(1) the congressional defense committees; and

(2) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs of the Senate.

AMENDMENT NO. 69 OFFERED BY MR. CÁRDENAS OF CALIFORNIA

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

SEC. . PILOT PROGRAM ON MINDFULNESS-BASED STRESS REDUCTION IN PRE-DEPLOYMENT TRAINING.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy, shall carry out a pilot program under which the Secretary provides mindfulness-based stress reduction training to members of the Armed Forces before their deployment to a combat theater of operations.

(b) STUDY AND REPORT.—The Secretary of Defense shall study and submit to Congress a report on the effectiveness of training under the pilot program, including the effect of the training on—

(1) managing stress; and

(2) preventing post-traumatic stress disorder.

AMENDMENT NO. 70 OFFERED BY MS. MENG OF NEW YORK

At the end of subtitle I of title V, insert the following:

SEC. . ADDRESSING ATTRITION LEVELS OF WOMEN IN THE MILITARY.

Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall develop and carry out an exit survey to be completed by members of the Armed Forces to assist the Secretary to assess the reasons that attrition levels for women are higher than for men at various career points.

AMENDMENT NO. 71 OFFERED BY MS. MENG OF NEW YORK

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

SEC. 2. JET NOISE REDUCTION PROGRAM OF THE NAVY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Navy, acting through the Director of the Office of Naval Research, may carry out a jet noise reduction program to study the physics of, and reduce, jet noise produced by high-performance military aircraft.

(b) ELEMENTS.—In carrying out the program under subsection (a), the Secretary may—

- (1) identify material and non-material solutions to reduce jet noise;
- (2) develop and transition such solutions to the fleet;
- (3) communicate relevant discoveries to the civilian aviation community; and
- (4) support the development of theoretical noise models, computational prediction tools, noise control strategies, diagnostic tools, and enhanced source localization.

AMENDMENT NO. 72 OFFERED BY MS. MENG OF NEW YORK

Page 433, line 2, insert “oversight,” before “and sustainment of”.

AMENDMENT NO. 73 OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF WASHINGTON

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

SEC. 12 . REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MISSIONS, OPERATIONS, AND ACTIVITIES IN NIGER AND THE BROADER REGION.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation as appropriate with the Secretary of State, shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the missions, operations, and activities of the Department in Niger and the broader region that includes the following:

(A) A description of the objectives and the associated lines of efforts of the Department in Niger and the broader region, and the benchmarks for assessing progress toward such objectives.

(B) A description of the timeline for achieving such objectives in Niger and the broader region.

(C) A justification of the relevance of such objectives in Niger and the broader region to the national security of the United States and to the objectives in the National Defense Strategy.

(D) A description of steps the Department is taking to ensure that security cooperation in Niger and the broader region is effectively coordinated with the diplomatic and development activities of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development.

(E) A description of the legal, operational, and fiscal authorities relating to the lines of effort of the Department in Niger and the broader region.

(F) An identification of measures to mitigate operational risk to and increase the preparedness of members of the Armed Forces conducting missions, operations, or activities in Niger or the broader region.

(G) An assessment of the command and support relationships of United States Africa Command with subordinate component commands, including Special Operations Command Africa.

(H) An identification and description of each implemented recommendation from the Army Regulation 15-6 investigation report conducted by United States Africa Command regarding the deaths of four soldiers in Niger on October 4, 2017.

(I) Any other matter the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(2) SCOPE OF REPORT.—For purposes of the report required by paragraph (1), the term “broader region” includes Algeria, Libya, Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, and Mali.

(b) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a)(1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

AMENDMENT NO. 74 OFFERED BY MR. BERA OF CALIFORNIA

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

SEC. 5 . REPORT ON AVAILABILITY OF COLLEGE CREDIT FOR SKILLS ACQUIRED DURING MILITARY SERVICE.

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs, Education, and Labor, shall submit to Congress a report on the transfer of skills into equivalent college credits or technical certifications for members of the Armed Forces leaving the military. Such report shall describe each the following:

(1) Each skill that may be acquired during military service that is eligible for transfer into an equivalent college credit or technical certification.

(2) The academic level of the equivalent college credit or technical certification for which each such skill is eligible.

(3) Each academic institution that awards an equivalent college credit or technical certification for such skills, including—

(A) whether each such academic institution is public or private and whether such institution is for profit; and

(B) the number of veterans that applied to such academic institutions who were able to receive equivalent college credits or technical certifications in the last fiscal year, and the academic level of the credits or certifications.

(4) The number of members of the Armed Forces who left the military in the last fiscal year and the number of those individuals who met with an academic or technical training advisor as part of their participation in the Transition Assistance Program.

AMENDMENT NO. 75 OFFERED BY MR. MEADOWS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 874, insert after line 6 the following:
SEC. 2815. PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE LEASING OF PROPERTY.

(a) REQUIRING CERTIFICATION BY SECRETARIES OF MILITARY DEPARTMENTS PRIOR TO ENTERING INTO LEASES THAT PROPERTY OWNED BY UNITED STATES IS NOT AVAILABLE TO CARRY OUT PURPOSE OF LEASE.—

(1) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT IN REPORTS ON LEASES OF REAL PROPERTY.—Section 2662(a)(5)(B) of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 2812 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91; 131 Stat. 1849), is amended—

(A) by striking “or” at the end of clause (ii);

(B) by striking the period at the end of clause (iii) and inserting “; or”; and

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

“(iv) facilities in property under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense may not be reconfigured to support the purpose of the proposed lease in an appropriate and cost-effective manner.”

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE; NOTICE OF COMPLIANCE.—

(A) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to leases entered into or renewed on or after the expiration of the 60-day period which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) REPORT ON STEPS TAKEN TO ENSURE FUTURE COMPLIANCE.—Upon the completion of any general steps necessary to ensure that the Department of Defense will be able to meet the requirements of subsection (a)(5) of section 2662 of title 10, United States Code (as amended by paragraph (1)) with respect to all leases entered into or renewed after the expiration of the period described in sub-

paragraph (A), including the promulgation of any regulations or the issuance of other guidance, the Secretary of Defense shall submit a one-time report to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and Senate and shall post a copy of the report on the public website of the Department of Defense.

(b) IMPROVING ACCURACY OF INFORMATION IN REPORTS BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ON REAL PROPERTY LEASES.—

(1) INFORMATION ON COSTS OF LEASES.—In preparing any inventory or report on real property leased by the Department of Defense, including information on property included in a Base Structure Report and information in the Real Property Asset Database of the Department of Defense, the Secretary of Defense shall—

(A) in the case of a lease which covers multiple assets of the Department, provide a separate breakdown of the rent and other costs (including parking) associated with each such asset; and

(B) in the case of real property which is subject to multiple leases entered into by the Department, provide a separate breakdown for each such lease and the costs associated with each such lease.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, or at the time of publishing the next Base Structure Report prepared after the date of the enactment of this Act (whichever occurs earlier), the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and Senate a report detailing the steps the Secretary has taken to ensure compliance with the requirements of paragraph (1).

(c) REVIEW BY GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary of Defense submits the one-time report required under subparagraph (B) of subsection (a)(2), the Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare and submit to Congress a report on—

(1) the extent to which the Department is in compliance with subsection (a)(5) of section 2662 of title 10, United States Code (as amended by subsection (a)(1)), including the regulations and guidance promulgated and issued by the Secretary to ensure compliance with such subsection, as of the date on which the Secretary submits the report; and

(2) the extent to which the Secretary is including the information required under subsection (b) in inventories and reports on real property leased by the Department, as of the date on which the Secretary submits the report.

AMENDMENT NO. 76 OFFERED BY MR. SCHIFF OF CALIFORNIA

Add at the end of subtitle C of title XII the following:

SEC. 12 . REPORT ON UNITED STATES STRIKES AGAINST SYRIA.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate a report providing a detailed explanation of the legal basis under both domestic and international law for the strikes conducted by the United States against Syrian regime targets on April 6, 2017, and April 13, 2018, including a detailed legal analysis of relevant authorities and precedents. Such report shall be unclassified, but may include a classified annex.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 908, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER).

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee as well as the House Judiciary Committee for working with me and the Armed Services Committee to include an important amendment in this bill that will expand DOD's ability to interdict drones that pose a threat to certain military installations.

My amendment adds mobility airlift to the list of mission sets permitted to use counter-drone technology. If a drone were to attack the mobility mission, it could mean a reduction in our ability to provide logistic support globally to joint and coalition warfighters.

Additionally, a drone attack on our mobility forces could prevent our capacity to conduct global operations by severely limiting our ability to conduct aerial refueling. This is a commonsense proposal necessary to protect a critical aspect of our national defense.

I am delighted it is included in an en bloc package, and I want to thank Representatives GARAMENDI, HANABUSA, ROSEN, and AUSTIN SCOTT for cosponsoring this bipartisan amendment.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WILSON).

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of amendment No. 73, requiring a report to relevant committees on the missions, operations, and activities of the Department of Defense in Niger and the broader region.

I believe that key components of the amendment are necessary to obtain critical, tactical, operational, and strategic improvements in U.S. Africa Command's efforts to achieve stability and security in the region, and most importantly, keep our troops safer.

As evidenced by the tragic deaths of the four soldiers who were ambushed by ISIS near Tongo Tongo, Niger, last October, improvements throughout the chain of command and military services are necessary, and DOD must provide greater transparency and communication with Congress regarding legal, operational, and funding authorities for military operations in Africa.

The amendment requires DOD to specify its objectives in Niger and justify their relevance to U.S. national security. For the safety of our troops, the amendment also requires DOD to identify measures to mitigate operational risk and increase the preparedness of members of the Armed Forces in Niger and the broader region.

It will also mandate that DOD assess the command and support relationships of U.S. Africa Command with subordinate commands like Special Operations Command. This will help to ensure improved command and control through-

out the chain of command, that the commander's intent is clear, and that operational guidance is consistent and concise.

Indeed, the tragic deaths of the four soldiers killed in action affected me personally in an overwhelming way. One of the four soldiers killed was a dear constituent of mine, Sergeant La David Johnson of Miami Gardens.

Sergeant Johnson, who was killed while bravely defending our country, was 25 years of age. He left behind a lovely extended family, a beautiful wife, and three young children. He was a member of the 5000 Role Models of Excellence, and 50 members are visiting us here today.

Mr. Chair, I am hopeful that with actions currently being taken by the DOD, along with the prescriptive elements of this amendment, our Nation will not have to suffer another tragic loss like we did last October.

□ 1700

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the chairman for this opportunity to discuss a matter of great interest and importance to the Tri-Cities community in my district.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers acquired land along the shoreline of the Columbia River in Tri-Cities, Washington. The land, 34 miles of the McNary shoreline, is currently underutilized. The local communities continue to be saddled with hundreds of thousands of dollars of M&O costs annually for upkeep of land of these shoreline properties that they don't even own.

I support the community proposal to convey the land back to the cities. I have been working with the chairman on proposed amendment language to do so but respect the fact the chairman has let me know there is still some work to be done.

I continue to encourage further community engagement and believe public meetings are necessary to ensure all voices are heard, including that of the local Tribes.

It is also a requirement that the city governments fully understand the responsibilities and potential costs that could arise from having this land conveyed.

There must be further coordination between conveyance proponents, community stakeholders, city governments, and the Army Corps.

Mr. Chairman, you have raised concerns about the language in its current form and have urged further efforts. I am committed to continuing to work with the local communities to address these concerns.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I respectfully ask: Will you commit to continuing to work with me as the NDAA process moves forward to try to address concerns with the proposal while

the communities continue to assess their needs?

Mr. THORNBERRY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. NEWHOUSE. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for raising this issue.

As the gentleman and I have discussed, there are significant hurdles to legislating land transfers of the Department of Defense. Among the issues that must be addressed are:

What and where is the property in question?

Who is the intended recipient?

Are there multiple parties who are also interested in acquiring this property?

Are there ongoing legal proceedings related to the property?

Are there cleanup costs and liabilities associated with the property?

Have the interested parties met with the Department of Defense, and if so, with whom?

Does the Department support conveying the property, and do they have a continuing need for it?

If supported, why can't the Department dispose of the property through its surplus/excess process?

What are the proposed reuses of the property?

Are there any earmark issues—no-cost conveyances to private entities or for economic development can be subject to points of order.

Has CBO been consulted for any mandatory scoring implications?

And, if outside committees have equities, have they been consulted for approval or concerns?

I will be happy to continue working with the gentleman moving forward, but I would ask that he and any other Member looking at land transfers take these factors into account and give all relevant committees plenty of time and opportunity to vet their proposal.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the chairman for that colloquy.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER).

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Chairman, first let me thank Chairman THORNBERRY and Ranking Member SMITH for the time. I also want to thank both of them for including my amendment in the en bloc 2 amendment package.

My amendment expresses this body's strong support of the Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. The Dover Air Force Base is a pillar of our community in the First State and a pillar of the Air Force community at large.

The Dover Air Force Base is home to the 436th and the 512th Air Lift Wings, representing over 4,000 Active-Duty military and civilians. The 436th was recently recognized with the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. The award served as recognition of the exemplary

work of the entire unit led by Colonel Ethan Griffin who will, unfortunately, soon be leaving Dover.

Along with supporting the missions of the two Air Lift Wings, Dover is also home to the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs and carries out the solemn obligation of caring for our fallen heroes.

Mr. Chair, it is right and fitting that the United States Congress recognize and acknowledge the incredibly important work of the Dover Air Force Base, and I urge my colleagues to support this en bloc amendment package.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE).

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the en bloc amendments and in support of the underlying bill.

Passing this defense bill is one of the most important constitutional responsibilities of Congress. I commend Chairman THORNBERRY for his leadership, and I thank him for his support of my amendments.

I was pleased to join with my bipartisan colleagues, Congressman MICHAEL BURGESS and Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, in offering an amendment auditing the Pentagon fully. This has been promised for many years, and I am pleased that it is in this bill.

I thank Chairman THORNBERRY for including my bipartisan amendment that would officially create the first-ever Department of Defense commendation for military working dogs and their handlers.

Nine military working dog handlers from the home State I represent, New Jersey, have been killed in action, and one of my constituents from Short Hills, New Jersey, was among these.

Mr. Chairman, I think we should be voting on the en bloc amendments favorably and also voting favorably for the underlying bill.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. CARBAJAL), who is a member of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Chairman THORNBERRY and Ranking Member SMITH for their bipartisan leadership, and the Armed Services Committee and the Rules Committee for bringing my amendment to the floor.

My amendment is simple. It not only urges the Department of Defense to pursue more innovative measures to train servicemembers, but also to train them in a more cost-effective manner.

This amendment urges DOD to transition training manuals, emergency guidance, and other training publications to applications on mobile telephones to enable interaction and improve and update the training experience for servicemembers. It provides a cost-efficient mechanism for less printing and less distribution costs while making the materials more readily accessible.

The Air Force has already started utilizing such applications, and my amendment would urge the Secretary to utilize such technology throughout all the services.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK), who is the chair of the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities.

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express support for my amendment to create an independent national security commission on artificial intelligence.

Mr. Chairman, this bill that I have introduced will direct a comprehensive and national-level review of advances in AI and machine learning and ensure these align with our national security needs. It will provide actionable recommendations to the President and the Congress to more effectively organize the Federal Government when it comes to AI.

Artificial intelligence is a constantly developing technology that will touch every aspect of our lives. The investments we make and policies we establish will provide the foundation of our national security and technological military advantage, but every day we run the risk of that edge being eroded.

In order to preserve this, we must increase our research in public, private, and academic institutions, build and educate a talented workforce, embrace the technological advances that AI will provide, and lead the international community in establishing the laws and norms associated with implementing AI. This amendment makes advances in all of these areas.

Mr. Chairman, I thank my ranking member, JIM LANGEVIN of Rhode Island, for cosponsoring this amendment.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDENAS).

Mr. CARDENAS. Mr. Chairman, first I would like to thank Chairman MAC THORNBERRY and also Ranking Member ADAM SMITH for their fine work on this and allowing me to bring my amendment to the floor.

My mindfulness amendment would create a pilot program to train members of the Armed Forces in mindfulness stress reduction techniques before deploying to combat zones.

According to the VA, mindfulness practice has the potential to benefit individuals with PTSD. Using mindfulness to strengthen reaction to stress together with existing empirically supported PTSD treatments may allow patients to persevere through trauma processing.

Rather than waiting to apply these treatments after the traumatic event, why not prepare our brave young men and women who are being sent into combat zones ahead of time?

A prior study with the Marines suggested mindfulness training was beneficial for attention, working memory,

as well as mood. My amendment would expand this training to all branches of the Armed Forces, including the Coast Guard. It would require a report on the success of this training with stress management and preventing PTSD.

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

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I have no further speakers on this en bloc package, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), who is the ranking member on the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of an amendment I joined with Ranking Member SMITH to offer on Niger.

Last October, four American servicemembers were killed in an ambush in Niger. We still don't fully understand what happened. For some reason, the zeal for oversight seems to have dried up in the last 16 months.

Here is what we do know: American personnel were in Niger for an advise-and-accompany mission, but sometime after these four heroes lost their lives, the administration said: Well, no, they actually fought under the 2001 war authorization.

That is the post-9/11 AUMF.

So four Americans are dead, and it turns out they have been fighting the war on terror one country after another. There are seemingly no limits, and we have a responsibility to do better.

This is a scandal screaming out for congressional oversight—not just in this case, but in so many of the far-flung places where our military is engaged overseas.

We need to stay focused on fighting terrorist organizations. But the law says Congress decides when and where we fight wars, and the administration appears to be losing track of what authorities it has and where it is using them.

Mr. Chairman, I am glad to join Ranking Member SMITH in offering this amendment that hopefully will shed light on our mission in the region.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER).

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague, Mr. SMITH, for yielding.

I rise today in support of my amendment to formally codify the Boots to Business program, and I want to thank my friend from Iowa, Congressman ROD BLUM, for his work on this amendment and on our bill, the Veterans Entrepreneurship Training Act.

As transitioning servicemembers enter civilian life, they bring adaptability and experience to excel as entrepreneurs. However, they often lack business-specific skills or experience that can help bring their ideas to reality.

The Boots to Business program seeks to fill these gaps and helps prepare transitioning servicemembers, their spouses, and also veterans for challenges starting their own small business.

Participants take a 2-day, in-person course on business ownership, followed by an in-depth, 8-week online course that teaches them day-to-day skills they will need to run a successful small business, such as the fundamentals in developing a business plan and how to acquire financing.

I am grateful my amendment is included in the NDAA, and I am hopeful we can continue to expand Boots to Business so that more servicemembers and veterans can start and grow their own small business.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, we have no further speakers.

Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of the amendments en bloc, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD the following editorial from my local paper, The Ledger, in reference to my amendment to H.R. 5515, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, to provide taxpayers with greater transparency into "official time."

EDITORIAL: PER ROSS, LET'S MAKE OFFICIALS REPORT ALL 'OFFICIAL' TIME

(The Editorial Board)

Think unions and the stereotype that comes to mind is one of burly, thick-necked guys clad in hard hats, scuffed work boots and plenty of denim. Perhaps that image was fit in 1955, when the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations merged to form the AFL-CIO, America's largest organized labor group. At the time an estimated 35 percent of U.S. workers belonged to a union, and most often such workers drove trucks, assembled cars, built and wired buildings, or engaged in similar hands-dirtying work.

Today, only 11 percent of workers are unionized, and frequently they wear a uniform (such as police or firefighter), or work in an office or public school classroom. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that 34 percent of union workers toil for local, state, or federal government agencies—or roughly five times the number of those who drive trucks, assemble cars, build and wire buildings, or engage in similar hands-dirtying work.

Inevitably, these workers must tend to union business at the expense of their official duties in service to the public.

U.S. Rep. Dennis Ross is particularly concerned about how such juggling among federal civil servants taxpayers, and seeks to enlighten the public, and perhaps the rest of the U.S. government, about how taxpayers' dimes are consumed by union time.

Ross is eyeing a federal law that says managers must allot staffers time—known in government jargon as "official time"—to perform union activities, insofar as it remains "consistent with the requirements of an effective and efficient government."

The federal Office of Personnel Management reported last month that most union workers who tap official time spend it lobbying Congress about legislation that affects federal union employees (for instance, bills relate to federal pay and benefits); rep-

resenting union employees who face discipline or who filed grievances; and participating in labor-management "workgroups."

Certain federal employees, under law, are paid to spend 100 percent of their time on union functions. Or some union reps establish "banks" of paid time that they draw down in working just for the union. The OPM report found that between 2010 and 2016, the most recent year available, the hours spent on official time jumped nearly 17 percent, from 3.1 million hours to 3.61 million.

In some cases, official time was negligible. The Federal Election Commission, for example, reported just six hours of official time in 2016. In other cases, it was considerable. The Defense Department recorded almost 387,000 hours of official time that year.

The size, scope and mission of a particular agency will drive much of that. Still, in the aggregate, this is no small expense. The OPM notes that in 2016 official time cost taxpayers almost \$175 million, up roughly 8 percent from 2014, the last time the survey was done. And the report doesn't catch everything. The OPM said its report was limited to payroll costs because it lacks "comprehensive data source" that would allow for "a complete accounting of the costs of union activities." Thus, its analysis does not include taxpayers' costs for facilities, equipment and travel related to collective bargaining.

The OPM knew, for example, that the Social Security Administration in 2016 spent \$2.1 million on union reps' travel, office space, telephones and supplies only because the agency was required to report that to its congressional oversight committee.

Congressman Ross seeks to fix that.

In May 2017, the Lakeland Republican, noting inconsistencies and lags in data-gathering on these costs, filed a bill that would require all federal agencies to provide Congress detailed annual reports of official time expenses.

"With greater transparency, employees will be less likely to abuse the system, which will result in less waste of taxpayer dollars," Ross said at the time "It is far past time we require agencies to provide this information to Congress and the public. Taxpayers deserve clear, reliable data on how many employees are performing union work on official time in lieu of their regularly assigned government duties." He's right. His bill passed the House, but unfortunately stalled in the Senate. Ross' office told us Monday he will seek to have the measure added to the National Defense Authorization Act, the must-pass defense spending bill that the House will take up later this week.

Ross will soon retire, but we encourage him to pursue this bill until he leaves. Moreover, we urge the rest of Congress to heed his point.

Congress owes taxpayers a full accounting of time spent by staffers promoting the personal career interests of the nearly 1 million unionized federal workers, and how that squares with the commitment, under law, of providing "effective and efficient" government.

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

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

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

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to House Resolution 908, I offer amendments en bloc.

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

Amendments en bloc No. 3 consisting of amendment Nos. 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, and 92, printed in House Report Number 115-702, offered by Mr. THORNBERRY of Texas:

AMENDMENT NO. 77 OFFERED BY MR. HECK OF WASHINGTON

At the end of subtitle I of title V, add the following new section:

SEC. 5. PROOF OF PERIOD OF MILITARY SERVICE FOR PURPOSES OF INTEREST RATE LIMITATION UNDER THE SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT.

Section 207(b)(1) of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. 3937(b)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) PROOF OF MILITARY SERVICE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of a servicemember's termination or release from military service, in order for an obligation or liability of the servicemember to be subject to the interest rate limitation in subsection (a), the servicemember shall provide to the creditor written notice and a copy of—

"(i) the military orders calling the servicemember to military service and any orders further extending military service; or

"(ii) any other appropriate indicator of military service, including a certified letter from a commanding officer.

"(B) INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION BY CREDITOR.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Regardless of whether a servicemember has provided to a creditor the written notice and documentation under subparagraph (A), the creditor may use, in lieu of such notice and documentation, information retrieved from the Defense Manpower Database Center through the creditor's normal business reviews of the Database Center for purposes of obtaining information indicating that the servicemember is on active duty.

"(ii) SAFE HARBOR.—A creditor that uses the information retrieved from the Defense Manpower Database Center under clause (i) with respect to a servicemember has not failed to treat the debt of the servicemember in accordance with subsection (a) if—

"(I) such information indicates that, on the date the creditor retrieves such information, the servicemember is not on active duty; and

"(II) the creditor has not, as of such date, received the written notice and documentation required under subparagraph (A) with respect to the servicemember."

AMENDMENT NO. 78 OFFERED BY MS. ESTY OF CONNECTICUT

At the end of subtitle I of title V, add the following new section:

SEC. . . . REPORT REGARDING POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS TO PROCESSING RETIREMENTS AND MEDICAL DISCHARGES.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall issue a report to the congressional defense committees and the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives regarding possible improvements to the transition of members of the Armed Forces to veteran status.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report under subsection (a) shall address the following:

(1) Feasibility of requiring members of the Armed Forces to apply for benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs before such members complete discharge from the Armed Forces.

(2) Feasibility of requiring members of the Armed Forces to undergo compensation and

pension examinations (to be administered by the Secretary of Defense) for purposes of obtaining benefits described in paragraph (1) before such members complete discharge from active duty in the Armed Forces.

(3) Possible improvements to the timeliness of the process for transitioning members who undergo medical discharge to care provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

AMENDMENT NO. 79 OFFERED BY MR.
KRISHNAMOORTHY OF ILLINOIS

Page 162, after line 17, insert the following:

(D) The number and percentage of individuals served by the pilot program who are employed in a field that matches their skills and training.

AMENDMENT NO. 80 OFFERED BY MS. GABBARD
OF HAWAII

At the end of subtitle D of title III, insert the following:

SEC. 3 . REPORT ON PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR CIVIL RESPONSE TEAMS TO VOLCANIC ACTIVITY.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Director of the United States Geological Survey, shall submit to Congress a report on personal protective equipment requirements for civil defense response teams to volcanic activity and civilian communities in the vicinity of active volcanic activity, including protection against sulfur dioxide gas.

(b) TRANSFER OF EQUIPMENT AUTHORIZED.—If the Secretary of Defense determines that the Department of Defense is in possession of excess personal protective equipment that is not needed for current and future planned operational requirements, the Secretary may transfer such excess equipment to State and local civil defense agencies upon request from the governor or equivalent official of a State.

(c) DEFINITION OF STATE.—In this section, the term “State” means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, and any territory, commonwealth, or possession of the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 81 OFFERED BY MR. CRAWFORD
OF ARKANSAS

The amendment as modified is as follows:

Page 116, after line 2, insert the following new section:

SEC. 515. PILOT PROGRAM FOR EOD-QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD TO SUPPORT CIVIL AUTHORITIES.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of the Army may carry out a pilot program under which EOD-qualified members of the Army National Guard may conduct planning and immediate response defense support to civil authorities.

(b) OBJECTIVES.—The Secretary of the Army shall design a pilot program conducted under this section to determine the following:

(1) The feasibility and effectiveness of establishing program described in subsection (a).

(2) The merits of using EOD-qualified members of the Army National Guard on full-time National Guard duty versus such members on active duty for such a pilot program.

(3) The need for legislative authority to conduct such a pilot program.

(4) The costs to make such a pilot program permanent.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In developing a pilot program under this section, the Secretary of

the Army shall consult with the Commanders of the United States Northern Command and United States Pacific Command regarding—

(1) defeating sustained bombings in the United States, including the territories and possessions;

(2) plans for EOD defense support of designated national special security events;

(3) plans for EOD defense support of the national response framework activities of the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security;

(4) EOD immediate response for recovery of Department of Defense munitions off-installation; and

(5) EOD immediate response in support of civilian law enforcement agencies.

(d) AUTHORITY FOR PAY AND ALLOWANCES.—The Secretary of Defense may, subject to appropriations, make funds available to fund pay, allowances, travel, training, operations, and maintenance costs for members of the Army National Guard who participate in the pilot program.

(e) COMMENCEMENT; DURATION.—The Secretary of the Army may commence a pilot program under this section on or after January 1, 2019. All activities under such a pilot program shall terminate no later than December 31, 2023.

(f) REPORT.—If the Secretary of the Army carries out a pilot program under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing an evaluation of the pilot program, including determinations described in subsection (b), not later than January 1, 2021.

(g) EOD DEFINED.—In this section, the term “EOD” means explosive ordnance disposal.

AMENDMENT NO. 82 OFFERED BY MR. CRAWFORD
OF ARKANSAS

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following:

SEC. . . . EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL DEFENSE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 136 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 851, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 2284. EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL DEFENSE PROGRAM.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall carry out a program to be known as the ‘Explosive Ordnance Disposal Defense Program’ (in this section referred to as the ‘Program’) under which the Secretary shall ensure close and continuous coordination between military departments on matters relating to explosive ordnance disposal support for commanders of geographic and functional combatant commands.

“(b) ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND AUTHORITIES.—The plan under subsection (a) shall include provisions under which—

“(1) the Secretary of Defense shall—

“(A) assign the responsibility for the direction, coordination, integration of the explosive ordnance disposal defense program within the Department of Defense;

“(B) designate the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, Biological Defense Programs as the key individual for the explosive ordnance disposal defense program that develops and oversees policy, plans, programs and budgets, and issues guidance and provides direction on Department of Defense explosive ordnance disposal activities;

“(C) designate the Secretary of the Navy, or a designee of the Secretary’s choice, as the executive agent for the Department of Defense that provides oversight of the joint program executive officer whom coordinates and integrates joint requirements for explosive ordnance disposal and carries out joint

research, development, test and evaluation and procurement activities on behalf of the military departments and combatant commands with respect to explosive ordnance disposal;

“(D) designate the Director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency as the responsible combat support agency that will exercise fund management responsibility of the Department of Defense-Wide Program Element for explosive ordnance disposal research, development, test and evaluation, transactions other than contracts, cooperative agreements, and grants related to section 2371 of title 10 during research projects including rapid prototyping and limited procurement urgent activities, and acquisition;

“(E) designate an Army explosive ordnance disposal-qualified general officer as the responsible senior leader of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency’s Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Organization that serves as the Chairman of the Department of Defense explosive ordnance disposal defense program board,

“(2) the Secretary of each military department shall assess the needs of the military department concerned with respect to explosive ordnance disposal and may carry out research, development, test and evaluation activities, including other transactions and procurement activities to address military department unique needs such as weapon systems, manned and unmanned vehicles and platforms, cyber and communication equipment and the integration of explosive ordnance disposal sets, kits and outfits and department’s developed explosive ordnance disposal tools, equipment, sets, kits and outfits.

“(c) ANNUAL BUDGET JUSTIFICATION DOCUMENTS.—

“(1) For fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress with the defense budget materials a consolidated budget justification display, in classified and unclassified form, that includes all of activities of the Department of Defense relating to the Program.

“(2) The budget display under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year shall include a single program element for each of the following:

“(A) Civilian and military pay.

“(B) Research, development, test, and evaluation.

“(C) Procurement.

“(D) Other transaction agreements.

“(E) Military construction.

“(3) The budget display shall include funding data for each of the military department’s respective activities related to explosive ordnance disposal, including—

“(A) operations and maintenance; and

“(B) overseas contingency operations.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘explosive ordnance’ means any munitions containing explosives, nuclear fission or fusion materials, or biological or chemical agents, including—

“(A) bombs and warheads;

“(B) guided and ballistic missiles;

“(C) artillery, mortar, rocket, and small arms munitions;

“(D) mines, torpedoes, and depth charges;

“(E) demolition charges;

“(F) pyrotechnics;

“(G) clusters and dispensers;

“(H) cartridge and propellant actuated devices;

“(I) electro-explosives devices;

“(J) clandestine and improvised explosive devices, including improvised nuclear, chemical and biological devices; and

“(K) similar or related items or components explosive in nature.

“(2) The term ‘disposal’ means, with respect to explosive ordnance, the assessment, sampling, detection, identification,

verification, field evaluation, defeat, disablement, neutralization, or rendering-safe, warhead packaging, recovery, exploitation, and final disposition of ordnance.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter, as amended by section 851, is further amended by adding at end the following new section: “2284. Explosive Ordnance Disposal Defense Program.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 83 OFFERED BY MR. CASTRO OF TEXAS

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

SEC. 12 . HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF EXERCISES CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Indo-Pacific region is home to over 60 percent of the world’s population and is prone to natural disasters particularly due to its proximity to a geological vulnerable region.

(2) The multilateral Pacific Partnership exercise, first conducted in 2006 in response to the humanitarian and disaster relief operations for the December 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, involved the participation of 22 partner nations to improve the ability of each country to conduct humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts.

(3) The Pacific Partnership is the largest annual multilateral disaster preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific region.

(4) The United States Agency for International Development, including through its Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, leads and coordinates United States humanitarian efforts in foreign countries and often partners with the Department of Defense in responding to disasters.

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

(1) the Pacific Partnership, a civic and humanitarian mission which the United States Navy’s Pacific Fleet, in conjunction with partner nations, nongovernmental organizations, and other United States and international governmental agencies conducts to strengthen alliances, improves United States and partner capacity to deliver humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and improves security cooperation among the partner nations in the Indo-Pacific region;

(2) the Department of Defense should continue to play a role in response to requests for support in international humanitarian assistance and disaster response drawing on its unique capabilities, manpower, and forward-deployed resources; and

(3) the Secretary of Defense should assess the United States force posture in the Indo-Pacific region for future Pacific Partnerships and work to expand engagements in the entirety of the Indo-Pacific region if appropriate and if applicable renaming the program as the “Indo-Pacific Partnership”.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than the end of the first full fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a briefing on the following:

(1) A description of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercises conducted by the Department of Defense in the Indo-Pacific region in the previous year that also identifies the partner countries and militaries involved in any such operations and exercises.

(2) A description of any planned humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exer-

cises for the following fiscal year in the Indo-Pacific region.

(3) A description of any constraints on the ability of the Department of Defense to conduct humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercises, including in resources.

(4) A description of any efforts undertaken by the Secretary of Defense to ease operational burdens on the Armed Forces of the United States to participate in humanitarian assistance or disaster relief exercises, such as the pre-positioning of equipment, inclusion of additional partners, and inclusion of exercises that may ordinarily be conducted independently of any humanitarian assistance operation or exercise.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE DEFINED.—In subsection (c), the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 84 OFFERED BY MR. THORNBERRY OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle B of title III, insert the following:

SEC. 3 . JOINT STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF WIND FARMS ON WEATHER RADARS AND MILITARY OPERATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall enter into an arrangement with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct a study on the impact wind farms have on weather radars and subsequently Department of Defense operations and readiness.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study required pursuant to subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) The potential impacts of wind farms on NEXRAD radars and other Federal radars used by the Department of Defense, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Weather Service for weather forecasts and warnings.

(2) The subsequent impacts of wind farms on Department of Defense aviation readiness, including—

(A) Department of Defense air traffic control radars;

(B) minimum vectoring altitudes, in particular around military flight training bases;

(C) air-to-ground drop zones;

(D) air-to-ground bombing and test ranges;

(E) military operating areas that extend to the surface;

(F) military training routes;

(G) over-the-horizon radars; and

(H) Department of Defense weather radars.

(3) Examples of when interference from the wind farms has affected the ability of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to forecast or warn for dangerous weather.

(4) Recommendations to reduce, mitigate, or eliminate the potential impacts.

(5) An analysis of the distance that wind turbines need to be away from the radars to ensure no impact.

(6) Recommendations for addressing the impacts to NEXRADs and weather radar due to increasing turbine heights.

(7) Recommendations to reduce or eliminate impacts of existing wind turbines, including those projects that are being repowered by developers to increase turbine heights.

(8) Recommendations to ensure wind farms do not impact the ability of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Weather Service to warn or forecast hazardous weather.

(9) The cumulative impacts of multiple wind farms near a single radar on the ability

of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Weather Service to warn or forecast hazardous weather.

(10) Recommendations to reduce or eliminate the cumulative impacts of multiple wind farms.

(11) An analysis of whether certain wind turbine projects, based on project layout, turbine orientation, number of turbines, density of turbines, proximity to radar, or turbine height result in greater impacts to the missions of Department of Defense, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Weather Service, and if so, how can those projects be better cited to reduce or eliminate NEXRAD impacts.

(c) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the study conducted pursuant to subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 85 OFFERED BY MR. BEN RAY LUJÁN OF NEW MEXICO

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

SEC. 31 . INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF PLUTONIUM STRATEGY.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States that—

(1) Los Alamos National Laboratory is the Plutonium Science and Production Center of Excellence for the United States; and

(2) Los Alamos National Laboratory will produce a minimum of 30 pits per year for the national pit production mission and will implement surge efforts to exceed 30 pits per year to meet Nuclear Posture Review and national policy.

(b) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall seek to enter into a contract with a federally funded research and development center to conduct an assessment of the plutonium strategy of the National Nuclear Security Administration. The assessment shall include—

(A) an analysis of the engineering assessment and an analysis of alternatives;

(B) an assessment of the science and strategy of retrofitting the facility for plutonium production, including the cost, schedule, and feasibility of licensing; and

(C) an assessment of the strategy considered for manufacturing up to 80 pits per year at Los Alamos through the use of multiple labor shifts and additional equipment at PF-4 until modular facilities are completed to provide a long-term, single-labor shift capacity.

(2) SELECTION.—The Secretary may not enter into the contract under paragraph (1) with a federally funded research and development center for which the Department of Energy or the National Nuclear Security Administration is the primary sponsor.

(3) SUBMISSION.—Not later than April 1, 2019, the federally funded research and development center shall submit to the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator for Nuclear Security, and the Nuclear Weapons Council a report containing the assessment conducted under paragraph (1).

(4) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than April 15, 2019, the Administrator shall submit to the congressional defense committees the report under paragraph (3), without change.

(c) REPORT ON PIT PRODUCTION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the plan for producing plutonium pits 31–80 at Los Alamos, in case the MOX facility is not operational and producing pits by 2030.

(d) CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary of Energy shall complete—

(1) by December 2020 a plan, including cost and impact to on-going activities and operations, to reach 30 pits per year at Los Alamos National Laboratory; and

(2) by September 2020 an updated CD-0 (Statement of Mission Need) on the final plan for the national pit production.

(e) BRIEFING.—Not later than March 1, 2019, the Chairman of the Nuclear Weapons Council and the Administrator for Nuclear Security shall jointly provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and to any other congressional defense committee upon request, a briefing detailing the implementation plan for the plutonium strategy of the National Nuclear Security Administration, including milestones, accountable personnel for such milestones, and mechanisms for ensuring transparency into the progress of such strategy for the Department of Defense and the congressional defense committees.

(f) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—Not later than April 1, 2019, and each year thereafter through 2025, the Chairman of the Nuclear Weapons Council shall submit to the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator for Nuclear Security, and the congressional defense committees a written certification that the plutonium pit production plan of the National Nuclear Security Administration is on track to meet—

(1) the military requirement of 80 pits per year by 2030;

(2) the statutory requirements for pit production timelines under section 4219 of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2538a); and

(3) all milestones and deliverables described in the plan under subsection (e).

(g) FAILURE TO CERTIFY.—

(1) NWC NOTIFICATION.—If in any year the Chairman is unable to submit the certification under subsection (f), the Chairman shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Secretary of Defense, and the Administrator written notification describing why the Chairman is unable to make such certification.

(2) NNSA RESPONSE.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Chairman makes a notification under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Secretary, and the Chairman a report that—

(A) addresses the reasons identified in the notification with respect to the failure to make the certification under subsection (f); and

(B) includes presentation of either a concurrent backup plan or a recovery plan, and the associated implementation schedules for such plan.

AMENDMENT NO. 86 OFFERED BY MR. BIGGS OF ARIZONA

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

SEC. 12 . REPORT ON ALLIED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMON DEFENSE.

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

(1) in recognition of the growth in the economic and military strength of United States allies which has occurred since the commencement of applicable treaties or other mutual security arrangements—

(A) the burdens of mutual defense now assumed by some countries allied with the United States are not commensurate with their economic resources or security environments;

(B) many United States allies have failed to consistently meet their commitments and responsibilities;

(C) progress towards developing the necessary self-defense capabilities to fulfill

commitments and contribute to the common defense has been disappointing at times; and

(D) the continued unwillingness of certain allied countries to increase their contributions to the common defense to more appropriate levels will endanger the vitality, effectiveness, and cohesion of the alliances and partnerships between those countries and the United States and increase risks to shared peace and prosperity; and

(2) the President should seek from each ally or partner country of the United States acceptance of international security responsibilities and agreements to make contributions to the common defense that are commensurate with the economic resources and security environment of such country, including, when appropriate, an increase in host nation support.

(b) REPORT ON CONTRIBUTIONS BY ALLIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 16 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 387. Report on annual defense spending by ally and partner countries.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1, 2019, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives a report that includes a description of—

“(1) the annual defense spending of each mutual defense treaty ally and major non-NATO ally, including the nominal budget figure and the share of such spending as a percentage of the ally’s gross domestic product, for the fiscal year immediately preceding the fiscal year in which the report is submitted;

“(2) the activities of each such ally in contributing to military or stability operations in which the armed forces participate;

“(3) any limitations that each such ally places on the use of the armed forces of such ally for such military or stability operations; and

“(4) any actions undertaken by the United States or other countries to minimize or modify such limitations.

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

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY ALLY.—The term ‘mutual defense treaty ally’ means a country that is a party to a treaty of mutual defense with the United States.

“(2) MAJOR NON-NATO ALLY.—The term ‘major non-NATO ally’ means a country so designated pursuant to section 2350a or section 517 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 16 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 386 the following new item:

“387. Report on annual defense spending by ally and partner countries.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 87 OFFERED BY MS. MCSALLY OF ARIZONA

At the end of subtitle H of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 573 AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS TO JUSTIN T. GALLEGOS FOR ACTS OF VALOR DURING OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM.

(a) WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 3744 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitations with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the Secretary of the Army may award the Distinguished-Service Cross under section 3742

of such title to Justin T. Gallegos for the acts of valor described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor referred to in subsection (a) are the actions of Justin T. Gallegos on October 3, 2009, as a member of the Army in the grade of Staff Sergeant, serving in Afghanistan with the 61st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

AMENDMENT NO. 88 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

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

SEC. 12 . BRIEFING ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAM TO PROTECT UNITED STATES STUDENTS AGAINST FOREIGN AGENTS.

Not later than 240 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide a briefing to the congressional defense committees on the program described in section 1277 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91), including an assessment on whether the program is beneficial to students interning, working part time, or in a program that will result in employment post-graduation with Department of Defense components and contractors.

AMENDMENT NO. 89 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

Page 543, insert after line 5 the following:

SEC. 1086. REPORT ON CAPACITY OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO PROVIDE SURVIVORS OF NATURAL DISASTERS WITH EMERGENCY SHORT-TERM HOUSING.

Not later than 220 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report analyzing the capacity of the Department of Defense to provide survivors of natural disasters with emergency short-term housing.

AMENDMENT NO. 90 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

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

SEC. 16 . REPORT ON SPACE DEBRIS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 240 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the risks posed by man-made space debris in low-earth orbit, including—

(1) recommendations with respect to the remediation of such risks; and

(2) outlines of plans to reduce the incident of such space debris.

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

(1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

AMENDMENT NO. 91 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle A of title V, add the following:

SEC. . REPORT ON RATE OF MATERNAL MORTALITY AMONG MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, and with respect to members of the Coast Guard, the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating when it is not operating as a service in the Navy, shall submit to Congress a report on the rate of maternal mortality among members of the Armed Forces and the dependents of such members.

AMENDMENT NO. 92 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON
LEE OF TEXAS

Page 468, line 14, strike "in" and insert "opportunities, and risks related to".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 908, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I have no speakers on this set of amendments en bloc.

Mr. Chairman, I urge its adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I, too, have no speakers on this amendment. I urge adoption of the en bloc amendments, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA) having assumed the chair, Mr. MARSHALL, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5515) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 774

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of H. Res. 774.

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

There was no objection.

PATIENTS' RIGHT TO TRY EXPERIMENTAL DRUGS

(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, I rise today to recognize the passage of the Right to Try Act—better late than never.

After months of jumping through parliamentary hoops to pass this legislation out of both the House and the Senate, we are finally able to put the Right to Try Act on the President's desk.

This bill would allow very sick or terminally ill patients to request access to drugs and treatments that have yet to be approved by the FDA. This is a bipartisan issue. So far, 40 States have already adopted Right to Try laws but are unable to actually enforce them. This bill changes that.

While giving terminally ill patients the right to try experimental medicine won't always be successful, it does give patients one final avenue of hope. For those who have exhausted all other possibilities of conventional treatment, they deserve the opportunity to leave no stone unturned. Also, the industry can learn from their experience.

I am disappointed that some in the Senate chose to delay this very time-sensitive bill, but I am pleased the President now can make Right to Try the law of the land.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSE FRANCISCO PENA GOMEZ

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and commemorate Dr. Jose Francisco Pena Gomez on the 20th anniversary of his passing.

From his lifetime of service, Dr. Pena Gomez will, without question, be recorded in history as a civil rights icon to the marginalized Afro-Latino community and advocate for the poor.

Dr. Pena Gomez personified his motto, "Primero la gente," or "The People First," serving as Mayor of Santo Domingo, vice president of the International Socialist Party for the Western Hemisphere, president of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, and twice nominated for the Presidency of the Dominican Republic.

Dr. Pena Gomez was a fierce proponent of free speech and denounced unfair election practices in the Dominican Republic and around the world. He was fervent in his condemnation of civil and human rights violations in Latin America. The largest airport in Santo Domingo bears his name and welcomes people from all over the world.

It is my pleasure and great honor to celebrate the life of Dr. Pena Gomez with his family and those who fondly remember his model and standard.

Primero la gente.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of

the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CAMERON ROBINSON

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to remember the life of Cameron Robinson. He attended the Route 91 festival in Las Vegas on October 1.

Cameron found his perfect balance in his boyfriend, Bobby Eardley. They loved each other immensely, and Cameron loved Bobby's children as if they were his own. Bobby describes Cameron as a man who never did anything halfway. Whether it was cooking fancy meals or working in the Las Vegas City Attorney's Office, he put his all in everything he did.

Cameron loved people without judgment and without condition. He is a man who is remembered as being full of spontaneous fun.

I would like to extend my condolences to Cameron Robinson's family and friends. Please note that the city of Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, and the whole country grieve with you.

ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the *Janus v. AFSCME* Council 31 Supreme Court case and economic inequality.

The issue of our time is economic inequality and the challenge of the middle class being left behind. We know that 81 percent of American households between 2005 and 2015 have not had a raise. They have actually either had their wages stagnate or decline. This is an issue that goes to the core principles of our Nation.

As every American knows, in 1968, Dr. King marched with sanitation workers in Memphis, with AFSCME local 1733. The march was not just about racial justice. The march was about economic justice. The march was about the freedom of sanitation workers to earn what Dr. King called a decent living. It was about the dignity of work. It was about the right to join a union.

They fought against so-called right-to-work legislation. They fought for collective bargaining so that people who work hard, who rode on trucks and picked up the trash and did hard labor, earn a decent wage.

Dr. King talked about the importance of economic justice, much as he talked about the importance of racial justice.